Alberta Justice
ANNUAL REPORT
2004-05

Alberta
JUSTICE

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-front graphic based on photograph of the historic Bowker Building

The Public Accounts of Alberta are prepared in accordance with the *Financial Administration Act* and the *Government Accountability Act*. The Public Accounts consist of the annual report of the Government of Alberta and the annual reports of each of the 24 ministries.

The annual report of the Government of Alberta, released June 29, 2005, contains the Minister of Finance's accountability statement, the consolidated financial statements of the province and a comparison of the actual performance results to desired results set out in the government's business plan, including the Measuring Up report.

This annual report of the Ministry of Justice contains the minister's accountability statement, the audited financial statements of the ministry and a comparison of actual performance results to desired results set out in the ministry business plan. The ministry annual report also includes other financial information as required by the *Financial Administration Act* and *Government Accountability Act*, either as separate reports or as a part of the financial statements, to the extent that the ministry has anything to report.

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The ministry's annual report for the year ended March 31, 2005, was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Government Accountability Act* and the government's accounting policies. All of the government's policy decisions as at September 2, 2005, with material economic or fiscal implication of which I am aware have been considered in the preparation of this report.

Ron Stevens, QC
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

VISION

A fair and safe society supported by a trusted justice system.

MISSION

To protect the rights of all citizens and advance the goals of society by fostering:

- Safe communities;
- Access to justice;
- Respect for the law;
- Understanding of, and confidence in, the justice system; and
- The legal foundation for social cohesion and economic prosperity.

A fair and safe society supported by a trusted justice system is the goal of Alberta Justice. The ministry's annual report for 2004-05 is a reflection of the commitment by the Alberta Justice team to ensure Albertans live in safe communities, have access to the justice system as they need it and ultimately have confidence in their justice system. This past year, Alberta Justice worked with other government ministries and partners in the community to improve existing policy and develop new initiatives to meet our goals.

Our objective is to make the justice system more understandable and more user friendly for Albertans. One of the key initiatives in meeting this objective is the ongoing commitment to improving family justice services. We renewed our commitment to streamline and unify our family justice system. In partnership with the courts and key stakeholders, initiatives are underway to simplify court procedures as part of the *Family Law Act* implementation. Services such as counselling, and information sessions on understanding the court process are providing assistance to families going through a break-up. Mediation is also proving to be successful throughout the province, allowing separated parents to come to decisions without appearing in court.

Mediation also proved beneficial for non-family matters with Albertans turning to this new option in the Court of Queen's Bench to resolve civil matters without going to trial. Whether it is for family or civil law matters, mediation enables people to solve disputes early in the court process, in a way that meets their needs. Earlier settlement frees up litigants' resources as well as judicial and legal resources, so they can be used where they are needed most.

Ensuring Albertans live in safe communities is also a priority. That community can be as close as one's own home. A specialized Crown prosecutor was appointed to work with Alberta Solicitor General, Alberta Children's Services and police agencies to develop and deliver training on family violence issues to prosecutors and police to assist them in investigating and prosecuting domestic violence cases. We need to provide victims and witnesses with services as soon as possible and protect them from further domestic abuse.

Alberta Justice is drawing on the strength of the Alberta advantage in technology as another means of keeping communities safer. Videoconferencing is one example. State-of-the-art technology is being used to transfer video and audio to and from the courtroom, allowing court proceedings to be conducted as if the accused was in the courtroom. This eliminates the need for prisoners to be transferred to court to deal with routine proceedings such as plea and bail hearings; providing for safer courtrooms and communities while at the same time reducing court delays and streamlining the court process.

Ensuring the public has an understanding of their justice system and confidence in the system is a priority for Alberta Justice. *A-Link:* Alberta's Law-related Information Network was developed with the John Howard Society and the University of Alberta to provide an electronic directory with immediate access to information on law-related programs and services in the province. More recently a partnership was formed with the Alberta branch of the Canadian Bar Association to develop the Justice Education Speakers Centre. This initiative will increase the number of legal professionals available to speak in Alberta classrooms and communities, and encourage learning about the law.

The accomplishments of Alberta Justice over this past year are the result of a committed and forward-looking group of people who understand they have a responsibility to ensure Albertans have a justice system that is accessible, fair and accountable. Alberta Justice is committed to meeting these needs and expectations by continuing to focus on initiatives that make our justice system even better.

Ron Stevens, QC
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

The executives of the individual entities within the ministry have the primary responsibility and accountability for the respective entities. Collectively, the executives ensure the ministry complies with all relevant legislation, regulations and policies.

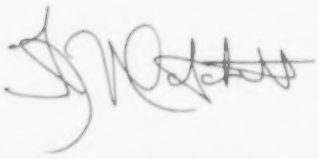
Ministry business plans, annual reports, performance results and the supporting management information are integral to the government's fiscal and business plans, annual report, quarterly reports and other financial and performance reporting.

Responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the consolidated financial statements and performance results for the ministry rests with the Minister of Justice. Under the direction of the Minister of Justice, I oversee the preparation of the ministry's annual report, including consolidated financial statements and performance results. The consolidated financial statements and the performance results, of necessity, include amounts that are based on estimates and judgements. The consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with the government's stated accounting policies.

As Deputy Minister, in addition to program responsibilities, I establish and maintain the ministry's financial administration and reporting functions. The ministry maintains systems of financial management and internal control that give consideration to costs, benefits, and risks that are designed to:

- provide reasonable assurance that transactions are properly authorized, executed in accordance with prescribed legislation and regulations, and properly recorded so as to maintain accountability of public money;
- provide information to manage and report on performance;
- safeguard the assets and properties of the province under ministry administration;
- provide Executive Council, Treasury Board, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Justice any information needed to fulfill their responsibilities; and,
- facilitate preparation of ministry business plans and annual reports as required under the *Government Accountability Act*.

In fulfilling my responsibilities for the ministry, I have relied, as necessary, on the executives of the individual entities within the ministry.



Terrence J. Matchett, QC
Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General
Ministry of Justice
September 2, 2005

MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL

- Alberta Review Board
- Fatality Review Board
- Judicial Council
- Notaries Public Review Committee
- Provincial Court Nominating Committee
- Rules of Court Committee

DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL

- Aboriginal Justice Initiatives Unit
- Communications
- Court Services
  - Calgary Court Operations
  - Edmonton Court Operations
  - Regional Court Operations
  - Program Support
- Criminal Justice
  - Appeals
  - General Prosecutions
  - Management and Leadership Services
  - Special Prosecutions
- Legal Services
  - Civil Law
  - Legislative Counsel
  - Medical Examiner
  - Public Trustee
- Maintenance Enforcement
  - Client Services
  - Collections
  - Program Support
  - Policy and Legislation
- Policy Secretariat
- Strategic Human Resource Services
- Strategic Services
  - Strategic Management Services
  - Financial Services
  - Strategic Business Services
  - Justice Claims and Recoveries

ALBERTA REVIEW BOARD

The Alberta Review Board makes or reviews dispositions concerning any accused person for whom a verdict of "not criminally responsible because of mental disorder" or "unfit to stand trial" is rendered, according to the provisions of the *Criminal Code of Canada*. The board also has the responsibility for determining whether a person should be subject to a detention order or conditional discharge, or be granted an absolute discharge. The Lieutenant Governor in Council appoints the board's nine members.

The Honourable Judge Michael Stevens-Guille - Chair
Telephone: (780) 422-5994; Fax: (780) 427-1762

FATALITY REVIEW BOARD

The Fatality Review Board is responsible for reviewing certain deaths investigated by the Medical Examiner's Office and recommending to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General whether a public fatality inquiry should be held. The board is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and is composed of a lawyer, a physician and a layperson. The Chief Medical Examiner is also a member of the board, but cannot vote on any matter before it. Cases reviewed by the board generally include accidental deaths (where recommendations could be made at a public fatality inquiry for the prevention of similar deaths in the future), cases where the cause and manner of death remain undetermined after a complete investigation, and deaths of individuals who are in police custody, in prison, certified under the *Mental Health Act*, or under the guardianship of Child Welfare or in the director's custody.

Diane Colley-Urquhart - Chair
Telephone: (403) 297-8123; Fax: (403) 297-3429

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

The Judicial Council screens individuals to determine if they are qualified for appointment to the Provincial Court of Alberta. The council is granted jurisdiction to deal with complaints against masters, Provincial Court judges and justices of the peace. The Minister of Justice appoints two members of this council. The remaining four members are designated under the *Judicature Act*.

The Honourable Ernest Walter - Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta
Telephone: (780) 427-6330; Fax: (780) 427-2077

NOTARIES PUBLIC REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Notaries Public Review Committee advises the Minister of Justice on appointments of lay notaries public. The committee consists of a member of the Law Society of Alberta, a member of the business community and a member of the ministry, who is the secretary. All are appointed by ministerial order under the *Government Organization Act*. The committee reviews applications for appointment and then provides recommendations to the Minister of Justice.

Salvatore (Sam) Amelio - Chair
Telephone: (780) 427-5069; Fax: (780) 427-6821

PROVINCIAL COURT NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Provincial Court Nominating Committee provides recommendations to the Minister of Justice on the appointment of individuals to the Provincial Court of Alberta. The Minister of Justice appoints the committee members.

Administration Office
Telephone: (780) 422-9625; Fax: (780) 422-6613

RULES OF COURT COMMITTEE

The Rules of Court Committee makes recommendations to the Minister of Justice on the amendments to the Rules of Court made under the *Court of Appeal Act*, the *Court of Queen's Bench Act* or any other act. The committee consists of six members: The Chief Justice of Alberta or designate, the Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench or designate, the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta or designate, two members appointed by the Minister of Justice on recommendation of the Law Society of Alberta, and one member appointed by the Minister of Justice.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Jean Cote – Chair
Robert Maybank, QC - Secretary
Telephone: (780) 427-4992; Fax: (780) 422-6613

ABORIGINAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES UNIT

The Aboriginal Justice Initiatives Unit (AJIU) provides support and strategic advice on Aboriginal justice issues to the deputy ministers and executive committees of Alberta Justice and Alberta Solicitor General. This includes work on the cross-ministry Aboriginal Policy Initiative, the Alberta government's goal to improve the well-being and self-reliance of Aboriginal people, and to clarify federal and provincial roles and responsibilities.

The AJIU liaises with First Nations, Métis authorities, and other key stakeholders, to encourage Aboriginal justice initiatives that promote safe communities, good relations between neighbours, and a better understanding of the justice system.

Bronwyn Shoush - Director
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COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Division provides advice to the department and the minister on strategic communications, issues management and public relations. The Communications Division also leads public legal education initiatives on behalf of the department.

Mark Cooper - Director
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COURT SERVICES DIVISION

Court Services provides administrative, planning and technical support to Alberta's three courts: the Court of Appeal of Alberta (in two locations), the Court of Queen's Bench (in 13 locations) and the Provincial Court of Alberta (in 74 locations). Staff are located in 21 centres and the courts circuit to an additional 53 locations.

The three courts maintain all court records and accept a wide variety of documents for filing from the public, lawyers, law enforcement agencies and other government departments. Employees record all court proceedings, swear in or affirm witnesses and interpreters, mark and ensure the safekeeping of exhibits, process fines and other payments into court, perform searches, and provide general assistance to lawyers and the public.

Court Services develops strategies to provide access to a broad range of justice services, including mediation and other appropriate dispute resolution mechanisms.

Court Services also operates law libraries to provide legal information to judges, Crown prosecutors, other lawyers and the public.

Barb Hookenson - Assistant Deputy Minister
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CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION

Criminal Justice prosecutes all offences under the *Criminal Code of Canada*, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* and the provincial statutes in all the courts of the province and the Supreme Court of Canada. This work includes, but is not limited to, homicide, assault (sexual and aggravated), impaired driving, break and enter, theft and fraud, speeding and other driving offences, but excludes adult drug offences. Criminal Justice works with justice system stakeholders and the community to promote safe communities and implement alternative approaches to the administration of justice.

The division is divided into four branches. Management and Leadership Services provides direct service to the minister and Executive Management Commitee and supports and participates in criminal law consultations within the province and with other jurisdictions. The branch is also responsible for leading policy and planning initiatives within the division and for coordinating these activities with other stakeholders. The Appeals Branch is responsible for criminal appeals in the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada, addresses complaints of wrongful convictions or miscarriages of justice, and provides legal and strategic advice ..ith respect to legislation. Special Prosecutions provides specialized prosecutorial services in areas of organized crime, significant commercial or corporate crime, technology and Internet crime, and mutual international legal assistance. General Prosecutions is responsible for all cases, apart from those assigned to the other branches, and works with stakeholders to promote safe communities.

Ken Tjosvold, QC - Assistant Deputy Minister
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LEGAL SERVICES DIVISION

The Legal Services Division is responsible for all civil legal services.

Civil Law provides legal and related strategic services to all government ministries and represents them in matters before the courts and tribunals. Its Constitutional and Aboriginal Law Branch provides specialized advice to the government concerning constitutional and Aboriginal matters. The Legal Research and Analysis Branch provides advice on legislative policy.

The Legislative Counsel Office is responsible for drafting government public bills, regulations and Orders in Council. This office also works with the Queen's Printer to make the laws of Alberta available to the public.

The Medical Examiner's Office investigates all unexplained natural and unnatural deaths in Alberta under the authority of the *Fatality Inquiries Act*. The Medical Examiner's findings are used to assist in resolving civil and criminal law matters that often arise after a death. The Fatality Review Board reviews cases investigated by the Medical Examiner's Office and recommends to the Minister of Justice in which cases a public fatality inquiry should be held. These inquiries are held before a Provincial Court judge.

The Public Trustee, acting under the *Public Trustee Act*, protects the financial interest of vulnerable Albertans by administering the estates of dependent adults, decedents and minors.

Peggy Hartman, QC - Assistant Deputy Minister
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Peter Pagano, QC – Chief Legislative Counsel
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Graeme Dowling, MD – Chief Medical Examiner
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Jack Klinck, QC – Public Trustee
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E-mail: jack.klinck@gov.ab.ca

MAINTENANCE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

The Maintenance Enforcement Program (MEP) ensures that individuals meet their obligations to pay spousal and child support under the terms of their court orders and certain agreements. Once an order or agreement has been registered with MEP, maintenance payments that the debtor (payor) would normally remit directly to the creditor (recipient) are sent to MEP. MEP then forwards the payment to the creditor once the funds have cleared through a trust account.

In cases of default or non-payment by the debtor, MEP has the legislative authority to take steps to enforce the support owed. These enforcement tools include registrations at the Land Titles and the Personal Property Registries; wage, non-wage and federal support deduction notices (garnishees); federal licence (passport) denials; motor vehicle registry restrictions and driver's license cancellations; registration at the credit bureau; and compelling attendance at financial examinations and default court hearings. MEP also has access to a variety of databases to assist in locating a debtor or a debtor's assets or income.

Manuel da Costa – Executive Director
Telephone: (780) 401-7500; Fax: (780) 401-7515
E-mail: manuel.dacosta@gov.ab.ca

POLICY SECRETARIAT

The Policy Secretariat provides support to the ministry by providing policy coordination, development, advice and research. It works with the executive, program management and outside stakeholders to identify the fundamental principles upon which programs supporting the administration of justice are based, and the consistent course of action that will best serve the public interest.

The unit is jointly managed by the Executive Management Committee of the ministry.

Randy Petruk, PhD – Executive Director
Telephone: (780) 427-0842; Fax (780) 422-9639
E-Mail: randy.petruk@gov.ab.ca

STRATEGIC HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

Strategic Human Resource Services provides strategic direction and consultation in the areas of employee/labour relations, staffing, classification, organizational design and change, job evaluation, performance planning, training and development, employee programs, leadership capacity, Occupational Health and Safety, and health and wellness initiatives.

The division supports the achievement of cross-government and corporate human resource plans and strategies.

Shirley Perras, Executive Director
Telephone: (780) 427-9617; Fax: (780) 422-9639
E-mail: shirley.perras@gov.ab.ca

STRATEGIC SERVICES DIVISION

The Strategic Services Division provides strategic information, tools and processes to achieve the department's goals and enhance its effectiveness. Services delivered include professional services and strategic advice on matters related to cross government initiatives, business planning and performance measurement, financial management, accounting and reporting, information technology management and strategy, Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy administration, business continuity planning, and capital planning. These strategic services are also supplied to Alberta Solicitor General.

The division also manages provincial programs on behalf of Alberta Justice, including the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims program, a *Criminal Code* fines enforcement program, and the Aboriginal Family and Criminal Court Worker programs.

Dan Mercer – Assistant Deputy Minister
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CORE BUSINESS FUNCTIONS

Alberta Justice had four core business functions in 2004-05:

Prosecutions

The Criminal Justice Division prosecutes persons charged with *Criminal Code*, *Youth Criminal Justice Act* and provincial statute offences, and is responsible for criminal appeals in the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada. The division promotes safe communities by vigorously prosecuting cases involving serious and violent crime, and by working with individuals and organizations in the community to identify and implement improved and alternative approaches to the administration of criminal justice. In addition, the division develops criminal law policy for the province and supports criminal law consultation with other levels of government.

Justice Services to Albertans in Need

Through its programs and services, Alberta Justice provides support and protection to vulnerable citizens. The Maintenance Enforcement Program ensures that court-ordered support is collected on behalf of Alberta's children and families. This program improves the ability of these families to achieve positive social outcomes and raise well-developed children. Where no one else is willing, able and suitable, the Office of the Public Trustee protects the financial interests of Albertans by assuming the role of trustee for dependant adults and minor children, as well as the role of executor of deceased estates. The Legal Aid program facilitates quality of access to the justice system through the provision of legal services in serious legal matters to those who would not otherwise be able to finance them solely from their own resources.

Courts

Alberta courts are presided over by an independent judiciary. There are three courts in the province – the Court of Appeal, the Court of Queen's Bench and the Provincial Court. The Court Services Division provides administrative support to the courts. Court Services also provides policy advice and assistance to the minister and the ministry in relation to court issues. Stakeholders of Court Services include the public, the legal profession, law enforcement services, correctional authorities and various service providers.

Legal and Strategic Services to Government

Civil Law provides legal advice and assistance to all government ministries and represents them in matters before the courts and tribunals. Constitutional and Aboriginal Law provides specialized services to the government in constitutional and Aboriginal law matters. Legal Research and Analysis provides advice on legislative policy. The Legislative Counsel Office is responsible for drafting government public bills, regulations and Orders in Council.

KEY FACTORS INFLUENCING PERFORMANCE

Identifying new challenges and recognizing trends by conducting surveys and research reveals changes to the social landscape in Alberta. Awareness of these changes provides an opportunity to understand how these societal shifts may impact the justice system in Alberta. Alberta continues to modify its policies and programs in response to international, national, provincial and local influences. Some of these influences and trends that relate to Alberta Justice are discussed below.

Although Alberta's crime rate is the lowest of the western provinces and both property and violent crime declined in Alberta in 2004, public safety remained a primary focus for Alberta Justice in 2004-05. As in previous years, about 26% of Albertans reported being a victim of a crime in 2004-05. The most frequently reported crime is vandalism or theft of personal, motor vehicle or household property. The annual cost of crime to Canadians is estimated to be $35 to $46 billion. The emotional costs of crime are immeasurable.

Identity theft was also a challenge for Alberta Justice and it continues to be a significant issue. Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada indicated that reports of identity theft increased almost 100% from 7,629 in 2002 to 14,526 in 2003. Businesses continued to be faced with the increasingly difficult task of maintaining personal information in a secure manner, and updating their customers on how to safely use and protect personal information.

The significant representation of Alberta's Aboriginal population at all stages in the criminal justice system has also presented unique challenges. Aboriginal people are the youngest and fastest growing population in Alberta, with one-third of the Aboriginal population 14 years of age or younger. While Aboriginal people represent only 7% of Alberta's population, they represent approximately one-third of the provincial youth and adult custody population.

Family violence results in significant costs to the criminal justice system and society as a whole, as well as a significant human cost. One-quarter of all victims of violent crimes reported in Canada in 2002 were related to family violence. Of those, nearly two-thirds (62%) were spousal and 85% of the victims were women. The Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women reported in 2002 that while Alberta's rates of spousal assault against women have declined since 1993, the province continues to have the highest rates in the country at 11%, compared to 8% for Canada as a whole. To help address family violence, Alberta Justice appointed a Coordinator for Family Violence Initiatives to provide expertise in combating this complex problem.

Sexual exploitation of children, including child pornography, Internet luring and the involvement of youth in prostitution, is a global issue. The Internet and related communications technologies have greatly enhanced the ability of perpetrators to commit sexual crimes against children and have caused the incidence of child and youth exploitation to increase. Technology such as digital and web cameras, and most recently, camera phones, has enabled collectors to also become producers of child pornography.

Accountability is a key democratic value. In response to the increasingly complex and interrelated issues faced by individuals, communities and governments, and the manner in which these partners address these issues, accountability models must be examined and refined. To maintain the trust of citizens, governments and their partners are increasingly challenged to be accountable for the outcomes they achieve. Alberta Justice is proactive in achieving a more effective and efficient justice system. The relationship between government and citizens has become more consultative. Albertans have a role to play in the decision-making process in areas that affect the justice system and their lives.

New technologies provide enhanced opportunities for citizen engagement. Governments must ensure that processes are in place to appropriately respond to increased demands for expanded citizen participation in decision-making processes.

Alberta Justice works toward implementing strategies that address its changing environment and assists the Government of Alberta in preserving a quality of life in this province, thus ensuring that Alberta remains the best place to live, work and visit.

Goal	Measure	Target	Result
Core Business One: Prosecutions			
Promote safe communities in Alberta.	Public perception of safety in the home (pg 27)	75%	72% of Albertans feel "not at all worried" about their safety from crime when alone in their own homes.
	Public perception of safety in the neighbourhood (pg 28)	82%	77% of Albertans feel "reasonably safe" to "very safe" walking alone in their area after dark.
Work with the Solicitor General to ensure victims have a more meaningful role in the criminal justice system.	Client satisfaction with public assistance program (pg 31)	83%	Edmonton – 80% Calgary – 86% Regional average – 75%
Core Business Two: Justice Services for Albertans in Need			
Provide access to justice services for Albertans in need.	Client satisfaction with the services of the Office of the Public Trustee (pg 35)	87%	90%
	Maintenance Enforcement Program: Dollars due compared to dollars received (% collected) (pg 36)	84%	84%
	Client satisfaction with legal aid services (pg 37)	None yet. Establishing baseline.	79%
Core Business Three: Courts			
Promote a fair and accessible civil and criminal justice system.	Median elapsed time from first to last appearance (pg 42)	Below the Canadian median – 109 days	The median elapsed time from first to last appearance was 73 days. Note: The latest data available is for 2003-04.
	Provincial Court civil mediation settlement rate (pg 43)	63%	63%
Improve knowledge of, and confidence in, the justice system.	Public knowledge of the justice system (pg 45)	63%	65%
	Public confidence in the justice system (pg 46)	80%	78%
Core Business Four: Legal and Strategic Services to Government			
Assist government ministries to achieve their objectives through provision of effective legal and related strategic services.	Client satisfaction with legal services (pg 48)	85%	90%
	Client satisfaction with assistance in meeting corporate goals (pg 49)	None yet. Establishing baseline.	87%

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The following summary highlights some of the key activities that occurred during 2004-05.

PROGRAM INITIATIVES

Civil Mediation Pilot Project

- On January 1, 2005, people who filed actions in the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta, in the judicial centres of Lethbridge and Edmonton, had access to a new civil mediation process to help solve their civil disputes.

  This program does not replace existing programs such as judicial dispute resolution (JDR) or the traditional court process. It complements the existing dispute resolution process, including the traditional court process.

Fifth Season: Healing Season Project

- In conjunction with Alberta Solicitor General, RCMP "K" Division, and the Saddle Lake Boys and Girls Club, Alberta Justice supported a mentoring project entitled "Fifth Season: Healing Season." The project was delivered in nine Aboriginal communities across the province including the Blood Tribe, Calling Lake, Chipewyan Prairie First Nation, Dene Tha' First Nation, Fort McKay First Nation, the four Nations at Hobbema (Ermineskin Tribe, Louis Bull Tribe, Montana Cree Nation and Samson Cree Nation), Peerless Lake/Trout Lake, Saddle Lake First Nation and the Stoney (Bearspaw) Band at Eden Valley.
- Facilitated by Inuk singer/songwriter and Aboriginal role model Susan Aglukark, the project involved interactive workshops with Aboriginal youth within each community on issues such as self-esteem, goal-setting and overcoming issues such as alcohol and drug abuse.
- In total over 450 Aboriginal youth and 3500 community members participated in the project.

Eden Valley Prescription Drug Abuse Pilot Project

- Alberta Justice, through the work of the Aboriginal Justice Initiatives Unit, provided support to the Eden Valley Pilot project and worked with the Stoney (Bearspaw) Band at Eden Valley along with a number of provincial, federal, regional, and agency partners on a community and youth development approach to address prescription drug abuse, suicide prevention as well as interpersonal and family violence in the community. The pilot project was developed in response to a direct request for assistance from the leadership of the community.
- The project focused on relationship building with the community, promoting safe communities and respect for the law, as well as developing a support network for the community.

Videoconferencing Online in Courtrooms

In 2004-05, a pilot project continued using high-tech videoconferencing equipment to connect seven regional courthouses to the Edmonton Remand Centre. The project was part of a new initiative to increase safety for Albertans and to streamline the docket court process.

Courthouses in Bonnyville, Camrose, Cold Lake, Leduc, St. Paul, Stony Plain, and Wetaskiwin participated in the project. In addition, the Calgary Young Offender Centre was linked to the Calgary Provincial Family and Youth Court.

Videoconferencing uses technology to transmit video and audio to and from the courtroom, eliminating the need for prisoners to be transferred to court to deal with routine procedures such as first appearance for plea and bail hearings. State-of-the-art technology maintains the rights of the accused as it provides for two-way conversations in "real-time." This allows proceedings to be conducted as if the accused was in the courtroom, with body language, eye contact and facial expressions all clearly visible through the monitors.

Reducing delays and improving courtroom safety is important to the justice process. Videoconferencing will significantly reduce the number of accused person transfers. This will provide increased safety in the courtroom and in Alberta communities.

Family Violence Justice Coordinator

Family violence is a unique crime, requiring a coordinated, collaborative response. On April 1, 2004, a specialized Crown prosecutor from Edmonton's Domestic Violence Court, Val Campbell, was appointed Coordinator of Family Violence Initiatives.

This appointment recognizes Alberta Justice's commitment to respond to family violence in a way that will make a difference to many families impacted by domestic violence.

Val Campbell worked with Alberta Children's Services and Alberta Solicitor General to develop and present family violence training focused on improving the investigation and prosecution of family violence cases. For 2004-05, Val has completed over 50 domestic violence training sessions across the province from High Level to Medicine Hat, Lethbridge and Taber. Training has been provided to approximately 2500 police officers, Crown prosecutors, probation officers, victims services workers, shelter/crisis workers, Alberta Children's Services and Alberta Human Resources and Employment employees.

Calgary Courthouse

- After a thorough selection process, which began in April 2002, the Alberta Government reached an agreement in 2004-05 with a private group of companies including GWL Realty Advisors Inc. (development manager), CANA Management Ltd. (builder), Kasian Architecture Interior Design and Planning (architect) and SNC-Lavalin ProFac Inc. (building operator) to design, build and operate a new courts facility in Calgary.
- Construction of the $300 million Calgary Courts Centre began in July 2004 and will consolidate the Provincial Court and the Court of Queen's Bench in a one million square foot facility between 6th and 7th Avenue and 5th and 6th Street S.W. The Government of Alberta is funding the project, while the private sector will design, build and operate it as a public-private partnership.
- Completion of the consolidated courthouse is expected by summer 2007.

A-Link Online Database

A-Link is hosted on the Access to Justice Network Alberta website *http://www.acjnet.org/abhome*, and is also available through the Alberta Justice homepage *http://www.justice.gov.ab.ca*.

- In 2004-05 Albertans were provided with a new way to quickly and easily access justice information. Alberta Justice and partners created *A-Link*: Alberta's Law-related Information Network - The first of this kind of online database in Canada.
- *A-Link* is a partnership project between Alberta Justice and the Legal Studies Program in the Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta. The John Howard Society of Alberta also provided valuable assistance in obtaining data for the directory.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY MINISTER

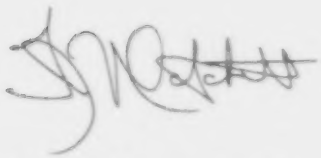
The results set out in the 2004-05 Annual Report reflect the ministry's commitment to the important daily work of operating the province's justice system in a fair and accessible manner. We have worked hard to ensure safe communities through fair and thorough prosecutions, and by working with individuals and organizations in the community to identify and implement improved and alternative approaches to the administration of justice. We carry on important work in the areas of supporting and protecting families who depend on court-ordered maintenance payments, individuals unable to protect their financial interests, and individuals who cannot afford legal counsel. We provide policy advice and assistance to the minister and the ministry in relation to court issues, and provide legal advice and assistance to all government ministries representing them in matters before the courts and tribunals.

In the past year, our ministry underwent a change in leadership, welcoming Minister Stevens, an experienced and highly respected lawyer and legislator, to the ministry. Under the leadership of Minister Stevens and by working with our partners, Alberta Justice will continue to provide a justice system that is trusted and supported by Albertans and responsive to their needs.

In addition to our important operational work, in 2004-05, Alberta Justice worked with partners to launch new initiatives to improve the justice system. A videoconferencing pilot-project to increase courtroom safety and reduce delays in the docket court process, an online directory to improve Albertans' access to justice programs and services, and the start of construction on the new Calgary Court Centre are but a few examples.

Alberta Justice has also been working on integrating a family justice strategy, expanding the use of technology in the courts, enhancing mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution programs, continuing partnerships to address family violence and improving Albertans' understanding and confidence in the justice system.

I extend my appreciation to our management team and dedicated staff for their efforts over the past year. Our success in achieving our ministry's goals and objectives is a direct result of their professionalism, commitment and creativity.



Terrence J. Matchett, QC
Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General
Ministry of Justice

AUDITOR GENERAL *Alberta*

Report of the Auditor General on the Results of Applying Specified Auditing Procedures to Key Performance Measures

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly:

In connection with the Ministry of Justice's key performance measures included in the *2004-2005 Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice*, I have:

1. Agreed information from an external organization to reports from the organization.

2. Agreed information from reports that originated within the Ministry to source reports. In addition, I tested the procedures used to compile the underlying data into the source reports.

3. Checked that the presentation of results is consistent with the stated methodology.

4. Checked that the results presented are comparable to stated targets, and information presented in prior years.

5. Checked that the key performance measures, as well as targets, agree to and include results for all of the measures presented in Budget 2004.

As a result of applying the above procedures, I found no exceptions. These procedures, however, do not constitute an audit and therefore I express no opinion on the key performance measures included in the *2004-2005 Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice*.

Fred J. Dunn FCA
Auditor General

Edmonton, Alberta
August 12, 2005

GOAL ONE – Promote Safe Communities in Alberta

Albertans have told us through the Justice Summit in 1999 and the Future Summit in 2002 that they want peaceful communities where they can live, work and raise families in safety and security, without fear of crime or victimization. While each goal is important, virtually everything Alberta Justice does is tested against the goal of safe communities.

Strategic Accomplishments

The following section highlights the ministry's accomplishments related to the strategies identified under goal one in the 2004-07 business plan.

Work with partners to modernize the business, communication and administrative processes within the criminal justice system to enhance the administration of criminal justice within the courts and support alternative options to the formal court process, where appropriate. Through the organizational renewal, the ministry will enhance knowledge management capacity for criminal justice staff and modernize the criminal justice system in relation to; movement of cases through docket court, early case resolution, use of paralegals, disclosure, electronic court briefs and First Appearance Centres.

- Organizational renewal is an initiative designed to improve how Alberta Justice performs many of its daily tasks. Results include: the appointment of a knowledge management coordinator and creation of communities of knowledge, improvements to filing and disclosure practices and enhanced early case resolution processes. The re-classification of key support staff positions and the creation of six paralegal positions is expected to increase capacity by allowing people in these positions to undertake work that was previously handled by prosecutors.

- To date, early case resolution has produced remarkably positive results. Alberta is the only province in Canada that has seen a reduction in lead times, the average number of weeks between the earliest known scheduled date and the earliest known trial date. Police services have reduced overtime costs, and significant numbers of victims, civilian witnesses and professional witnesses have been spared needless court appearances. Defence counsel now have improved, early access to Crown counsel to discuss cases, as well as improved flexibility in setting trial dates.

Advance Alberta's position regarding reforms to criminal law and the administration of justice to the federal government, including conditional sentences, making child murder automatically first degree murder, pursuing stronger protection for children from pornography, Internet luring, and sexual exploitation and abuse, and preliminary inquiry reforms.

Alberta continued to advocate that the age of consent to sexual activity in the *Criminal Code* should be raised from the current 14 years of age to at least 16 years of age. Bill C-2, which has been passed by Parliament and awaits a proclamation date, contains a number of provisions, strongly supported by Alberta and other provinces, to better protect children by strengthening prohibitions against child pornography and sexual exploitation in the *Criminal Code*.

Alberta has taken a lead role in advocating for changes to the conditional sentence provisions of the *Criminal Code*, which has resulted in provincial/territorial justice ministers recommending that conditional sentences not be considered in a variety of violent, sexual or dangerous driving offences. The federal justice minister has indicated that he will be proposing reforms in regard to conditional sentences in the fall of 2005.

Alberta continued to advance making child murder automatically first degree murder; however, this position was not supported at the federal/provincial/territorial level.

Work with partners (e.g. police services) in developing policies to address issues such as chronic impaired drivers and methamphetamine labs to move toward outcomes that enhance community safety.

Alberta, along with other provinces, has asked the federal government to review the laws that allow for conditional sentences in circumstances where death or serious bodily harm results from *Criminal Code* offences, including driving offences. It is Alberta's position that serving a sentence in the community, when the driver's behaviour has caused death or serious bodily harm does not properly emphasize deterrence and does not provide sufficient protection to the public.

The *Working Group on Methamphetamine Report and Recommendations to Ministers*, dated November 24, 2003, outlined a number of recommendations dealing with methamphetamine production and use in Alberta. In cooperation with Alberta Solicitor General, Alberta Justice is reviewing the provincial legislation to determine whether amendments to specific provincial statutes may better address illicit drug manufacturing, contaminants, and treatment services.

Work with federal/provincial/territorial governments, police and other enforcement agencies to implement strategies to address organized crime, economic crime, technology crime and exploitation of children via the Internet.

Recognizing the challenges associated with combating organized crime, Alberta Justice has appointed four prosecutors to prosecute organized crime offences or offences that arise out of Integrated Response to Organized Crime (IROC) investigations. The prosecutors in the Special Prosecutions Branch provide ongoing support and advice to police agencies during organized crime investigations.

Enhance specialized courts and processes to more effectively address the root causes of crime, such as mental illness, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and violence in relationships.

Early in March 2005, Calgary opened a domestic violence trial court. An accused person who pleads not guilty to domestic violence-related charges will be tried in this specialized court.

The Calgary Diversion Project redirects individuals with mental illness who are charged with minor offences from the criminal justice system to mental health, social and support services. Similar mental health diversion pilot projects operate in Edmonton, Lethbridge and St. Paul.

Key Measure 1

The majority of Albertans are not at all worried about their safety from crime in their own homes. Those feeling somewhat less safe than others, however, included victims of crime, those from households with annual incomes of less than $20,000 and women.

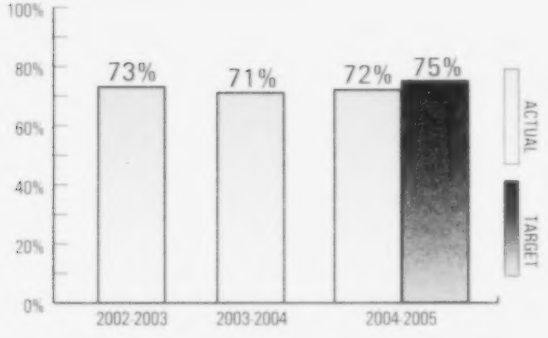
Public perception of safety in the home	The results of the *2004-05 Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Survey of Albertans* indicated that 72 per cent of Albertans said that they feel not at all worried about their safety from crime when alone in their own homes. This is up from 71 per cent in 2004. This year's target was 75 per cent.

Safety in the home measures the public's perception of the ministry's success at achieving the goal of safe communities.

In the 2004-07 business plan and this annual report, public perception of safety in the home is reported as the percentage of Albertans who feel "not at all worried" about their safety from crime when alone in their own homes. This new measure more directly addresses fear of crime than the previous question used as a measure. That question asked, "how safe do you feel from crime when you are in your own home after dark?" It is also comparable with a question asked in the national General Social Survey conducted by Statistics Canada, and allows for more comparability of Alberta results with other Canadian jurisdictions.

Respondents were still asked the old question about how safe they felt from crime when alone in their own home after dark. The vast majority (91 per cent) said they felt very safe or reasonably safe in their own home.

The percentage of Albertans who feel "not at all worried" about their safety from crime when alone in their own homes.



For methodology related to this measure see page 51.

Key Measure 2 – Public Perception of Safety in the Neighbourhood

Most Albertans feel safe walking alone at night in their neighbourhood. There were lower perceived safety levels among some respondents including women, those neither single nor married (e.g., divorced, widowed), younger (18 to 24) and older (65 or older) Albertans; those from households earning under $20,000 annually, victims of crime, and residents of Edmonton.

Public perception of safety in the neighbourhood	The results of the *2004-05 Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Survey of Albertans* indicated that 77 per cent of Albertans felt safe walking alone in their area after dark. 40 per cent said they felt "very safe" and 37 per cent indicated they felt "reasonably safe." This is a minimal (1 per cent) increase over the 2003-04 results; however, it is below this year's target of 82 per cent.

Similar to safety in the home, safety in the neighbourhood measures the public's perception of the ministry's success at achieving our goal of safe communities.

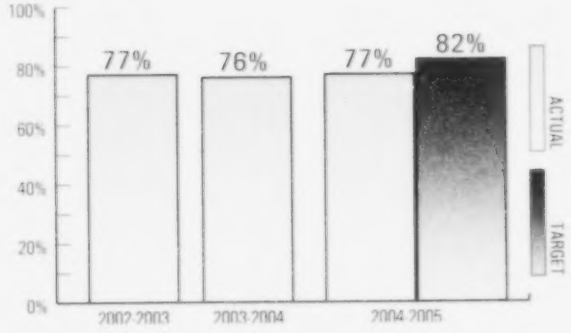
In the Alberta Justice 2004-07 business plan, public perception of safety in the neighbourhood is described as the percentage of Albertans who feel "reasonably safe" to "very safe" walking alone in their area after dark. This new question, which asks Albertans about their feelings of safety, is more appropriate for Perception of Safety in the Neighbourhood than the previously used question that asked Albertans whether they were comfortable walking alone at night in their neighbourhood. The new question is also comparable with the question asked in the national General Social Survey conducted by Statistics Canada. This allows for more comparability of Alberta results with other Canadian jurisdictions.

Although the 2004-05 result of 77 per cent does not meet this year's target, the 2005 result exceeds last year's result and is generally in line with the results of previous years.

In addition, 60 per cent of respondents indicated that they believe crime in their neighbourhood has decreased or remained the same. As well, 84 per cent felt that the amount of crime in the neighbourhood is about the same or lower than in other areas of the province.

Public perception of safety is strongly influenced by media coverage of crime and current events.

The percentage of Albertans who feel "reasonably safe" to "very safe" walking alone in their area after dark.



For methodology related to this measure see **page 51**.

GOAL TWO – Work With Solicitor General to Ensure Victims Have A More Meaningful Role in the Criminal Justice System

Recognizing the needs of the victim in the criminal justice system helps restore the balance of society in a humane and fair way, and is an important goal for the justice system.

Strategic Accomplishments

The following section highlights the ministry's accomplishments related to the strategies identified under goal two in the 2004-07 business plan.

Work with other ministries and non-government organizations on the Family Violence Roundtables to develop a Strategy for the Prevention of Family Violence, which will provide comprehensive, seamless services to adult and child victims of domestic violence.

- Alberta Justice helped to finalize the *Cross-Ministry Action Plan – Strategy for the Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying 2005-08* under the lead of Alberta Children's Services. The spending requirements to support the family violence initiatives were advanced also under Alberta Children's Services' lead. Alberta Justice secured additional funding to support family violence initiatives for 2005-08.

Develop and advance reforms that focus on protecting children from criminal exploitation and seek to improve services to children in the criminal justice system, such as expanding the use of child friendly courtrooms and processes.

- Alberta Justice supported Bill C-2, which is now before Parliament. Bill C-2 will broaden the definition of what constitutes child pornography to cover written and audio material. The proposed prohibition on advertising child pornography will enhance our ability to protect children. The proposal in Bill C-2 to create a new prohibited type of exploitive sexual relationship is a positive step, and will provide some enhanced protection to children, although Alberta indicated it could be stronger in sending a clear and unambiguous message that children are not appropriate sexual partners for adults.

Work with the Solicitor General to review the "Report of Victims of Crime Consultation" and where appropriate develop action plans.

- Alberta Justice worked with Alberta Solicitor General to develop plans to implement the *Report of the Alberta Victims of Crime Consultation*, which was released in 2004. The consultations described in the Report took place in the spring of 2002 and provide the foundation for the new ten-year vision for programs and services for victims of crime in Alberta.

Key Measure 1

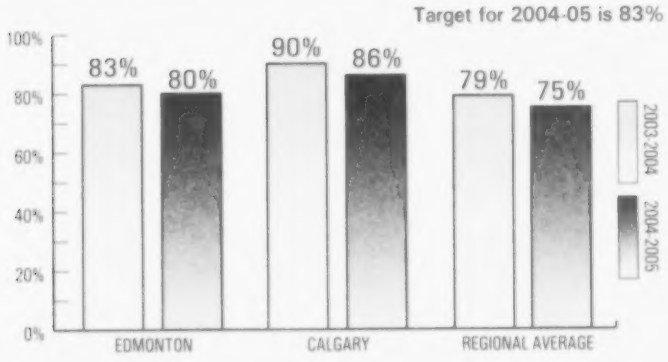
The majority of individuals who access Public Assistance Services in the Crown Prosecutors' offices across the province were satisfied with the services they received.

Client Satisfaction with Public Assistance Program	In Edmonton, 80 per cent of respondents were satisfied with the service they received from the Public Assistance Unit. 10 per cent strongly agreed and 70 per cent agreed that they were satisfied with the services they received. This is down from 83 per cent in 2003-04. In Calgary, 86 per cent of respondents were satisfied with the service they received from the Public Assistance Unit. 39 per cent strongly agreed and 47 per cent agreed that they were satisfied with the services they received. This is down from 90 per cent in 2003-04. In the regional areas, an average of 75 per cent of respondents were satisfied with the service they received from Public Assistance Services. This is a decrease from 79 per cent in 2003-04. The regional responses ranged from 60 per cent to 88 per cent satisfied. Because the numbers are an average of results from offices across the province, it is not possible to accurately break down the numbers in terms of the proportion who strongly agreed versus those who agreed. The target for 2004-05 was 83 per cent. Edmonton's result was lower than the target, while Calgary's result exceeded the target. The regional average was also below the target, although some regional offices exceeded the target.

An important way of assisting victims in having a more meaningful role in the criminal justice system is through services provided by the Public Assistance Units in Edmonton and Calgary and by the Crown prosecutor's office support staff in regional areas. Public assistance activities include: providing case specific information and general information about the criminal justice system to victims of crime and other participants in the criminal justice system, and providing a link between victims and Crown prosecutors.

This is the third year that the survey was conducted in Edmonton and Calgary, and the second year for the regional offices. The populations served by the Edmonton and Calgary Public Assistance Units are quite different. Calgary serves primarily victims of crime, and Edmonton's primary users are individuals employed within the Criminal Justice System or other stakeholders. Regions outside of Edmonton and Calgary varied as to the clients served; there was no one distinct group of people primarily served. In four regional offices, people accused of an offence made up the majority of individuals contacting Crown offices for Public Assistance Services. This measure will not appear in the Alberta Justice 2005-08 business plan or in the 2005-06 Alberta Justice annual report.

The percentage of clients who indicated that they were satisfied with the services they received from the Public Assistance Units in Edmonton and Calgary.



For methodology related to this measure see **page 52**.

GOAL THREE – Provide Access to Justice Services for Albertans in Need

Albertans require access to a broad range of justice services including courts, prosecution services and appropriate dispute resolution mechanisms. In addition, services such as maintenance enforcement, estate and trust administration services, victim assistance, and legal aid contribute to the preservation of a safe society for Albertans.

Strategic Accomplishments

The following section highlights the ministry's accomplishments related to the strategies identified under goal three in the 2004-07 business plan.

Improve the access of eligible Albertans to legal aid services.

In 2004-05, additional funding was received from the federal government as part of its contribution to the cost of legal aid. As a result, Alberta Justice increased its grant to the Legal Aid Society of Alberta by $3.1 million. The increased funding enabled the society to:

- Expand its financial eligibility guidelines by 3 per cent as of April 2004, so more Albertans will be eligible for legal aid assistance;
- Establish a province-wide toll free legal advisory service to provide legal advice to persons in custody (Brydges services);
- Establish a legal information call centre to provide Albertans with access to general information regarding legal matters; and
- Provide additional duty counsel services.

Continue to monitor the operation and evaluation of the Family Law Staff Counsel Pilot Project to service legal aid recipients.

The evaluation of the Family Law Staff Counsel Pilot Project was completed and the Family Law Office, which operates in Edmonton and Calgary, is now a permanent part of the legal aid program. The Family Law Staff Counsel Pilot Project began in 2001.

Implement procedures arising from amendments to the *Maintenance Enforcement Act*.

Resulting from amendments to the *Maintenance Enforcement Act*, automated procedures have been developed to initiate deterrent fees and charges. Negotiations have also proceeded with the Ministry of Finance, the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Fund and the Western Canadian Lottery Corporation to attach additional sources of income and assets of defaulting debtors. Procedures for the new Financial Examination Unit were developed and implemented.

Identify innovative administrative structures to enhance the Maintenance Enforcement Program.

An extensive fourteen-week collection officer training package was prepared and delivered to increase the productivity of the program's new staff. A training program was also delivered to all staff regarding the new Maintenance Information Management System (MIMS). In the Edmonton region, a Financial Examination Unit was established as an administrative alternative to court proceedings for debtors with significant default histories, and field investigations were initiated to enhance the location of debtor assets and sources of income.

Complete the construction phase and deploy the new Maintenance Information Management System to improve communications with clients and stakeholders.

Following staff training, MIMS was deployed on time and under budget in October 2004.

Enhance the Maintenance Enforcement Program's partnership with Government Services to accept support payments at registry agent offices throughout Alberta.

Discussions were initiated with the Ministry of Government Services regarding accepting payments at Alberta registry agent offices. To conclude this matter, it continues as a strategy in the program's operational plan.

Implement the revised and updated *Public Trustee Act*.

The *Public Trustee Act* and general regulations came into operation on January 1, 2005.

Through the Office of the Public Trustee, continue the expansion of the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Benefits Administration Program beyond the Edmonton and central regions.

The AISH Benefits Administration Program has now been fully implemented within the Edmonton, central, Calgary and northwest regions.

Key Measure 1

The majority of clients were satisfied with the services provided by the Office of the Public Trustee.

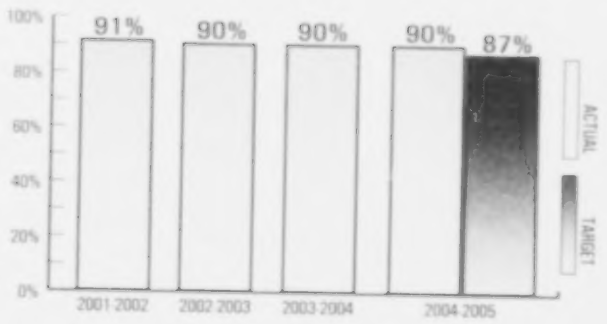
Satisfaction with services of the Office of the Public Trustee.	In 2004-05, the satisfaction rate of those clients responding to the survey was 90 per cent. This is the same result as was achieved last year and exceeds this year's target of 87 per cent.

The Office of the Public Trustee provides estate and trust administration services to disadvantaged Albertans. This measure is used to monitor how well the Public Trustee provides its services and is one measure indicating access to justice services for persons in need.

The measure is a composite of responses to various questions relating to satisfaction with responsiveness and quality of services provided. It is used to monitor how well the Office of the Public Trustee provides its services, to improve services to clients and to establish policies and procedures where deficiencies are noted.

More information on the activities of the Public Trustee is available in the program's annual report, which can be obtained from the Public Trustee. Contact information for the Public Trustee can be found on the Alberta Justice web site at *http://www.justice.gov.ab.ca/public_trustee/contact.aspx*.

The percentage of clients "satisfied" to "very satisfied" with the services of the Public Trustee's Office.



For methodology related to this measure see **page 54**.

Key Measure 2

The Maintenance Enforcement Program achieved an 84 per cent collection rate on scheduled support and scheduled arrears payments.

Maintenance Enforcement Program: Dollars due compared to dollars received (Per cent collected)	In 2004-05, the Maintenance Enforcement Program achieved an 84 per cent collection rate. This represents an increase from the 80 per cent collection rate achieved in 2003-04 and meets this year's target of 84 per cent.

The Maintenance Enforcement Program (MEP) collects support payments pursuant to court orders and agreements. Factors outside MEP's control also influence the program's success at collections. These include inaccessibility of the debtor and/or the debtor's resources, court ordered stays of enforcement, and termination of the debtor's income due to unemployment, disability or incarceration.

The MEP collection rate is a measure of the ministry's success in assisting Albertans in need, especially children. Program performance met the target of 84 per cent. The program places emphasis on client service, administrative fairness and staff training to assist with voluntary compliance, and, when needed, negotiates settlements of delinquent accounts. Additionally, the program has a number of legislative tools and clear guidelines regarding their use; these are employed effectively to enforce maintenance orders and to assist in achieving compliance.

For methodology related to this measure see **page 54**.

Key Measure 3

The majority of applicants indicated that they were "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with the services they received from the Legal Aid Society of Alberta in applying for legal aid.

Client satisfaction with Legal Aid Services	In 2004-05, 79 per cent of respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied with the services they received from the Legal Aid Society of Alberta when applying for legal aid. 35 per cent were very satisfied and 44 per cent indicated they were satisfied.

This is the second year that this measure has been included in the annual report. The survey has been expanded to address not only client satisfaction with the application process, but also satisfaction with services rendered by the legal aid lawyer and satisfaction with all services provided by or through the Legal Aid Society (e.g. application, billing, legal services).

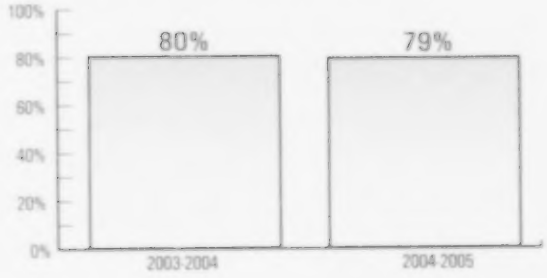
In 2004-05, 75 per cent of respondents were either "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the services they received from the legal aid lawyer; and 78 per cent of respondents were either "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the services they received from the Legal Aid Society for all the services received through legal aid.

Recipients of legal aid expressed higher levels of satisfaction (88 per cent) than non-recipients (50 per cent). This difference may be influenced by non-recipients' disappointment with the denial of coverage. Seventy two per cent of respondents received legal aid, 21 per cent were denied legal aid, and 7 per cent could not report on the status of their legal aid application.

This measure and target did not appear in the 2004-07 business plan. The measure and target have been included in the 2005-08 business plan and will be reported in the 2005-06 annual report.

More information on the Legal Aid program is available in the program's annual report, which can be found on the Internet at *www.legalaid.ab.ca*.

The percentage of clients "satisfied" to "very satisfied" with the services received from the Legal Aid Society of Alberta when applying for legal aid.



For methodology related to this measure see **page 55**.

GOAL FOUR – Promote A Fair and Accessible Civil and Criminal Justice System

The justice system is responsible for providing the infrastructure to address criminal matters and resolve civil disputes. This includes the provision of court resources, scheduling mechanisms, prosecutorial services and appropriate dispute resolution mechanisms. Where appropriate, mediation, judicial dispute resolution and mini-trials are used as alternatives to the traditional court process. By speeding up the process and lowering costs, these alternatives can improve access to the justice system.

Strategic Accomplishments

The following section highlights the ministry's accomplishments related to the strategies identified under goal four in the 2004-07 business plan.

Use technology as a primary tool to improve access to the court system through initiatives such as caseflow management systems, support for Service Alberta, electronic filing and expanding the use of videoconferencing.

- To improve access through technology, a pilot project and a business case were developed for a province-wide videoconferencing project. The Videoconferencing for Docket and Arraignment Court Appearances Project was very successful and videoconferencing will be expanded province-wide beginning in 2005-06.

Work with Alberta Infrastructure and the judiciary on Alberta's courts to ease crowding and make it easier for Albertans to access the justice system. This is to include the consolidation of the Calgary courts.

- Construction of the Calgary Courts Centre began in July 2004. By bringing trial courts together, this facility will be a major improvement in the access to justice for all Calgarians.

Continue the consultation process for the Single Trial Court. Focus on developing a centre of excellence for commercial dispute resolution.

- Alberta Justice retained a consultant to engage the legal community and other justice system stakeholders in discussions on possible justice system reforms. The consultant's recommendations confirm that Alberta Justice and its partners and stakeholders are on parallel paths to providing what Albertans are looking for in a justice system - accessibility, speed, lower costs and simpler processes.
- The centre of excellence for commercial dispute resolution is not being considered at this time.

Develop a plan to implement the government's response to the Unified Family Court Task Force Report.

- The Family Justice Strategy is an alternate response to the proposal for a Unified Family Court (UFC) recommended in the UFC Task Force Report. The strategy is intended to respond to identified needs for developing integrated and appropriate responses to family law problems. The object is to focus on simplifying the function - rather then the structure - of the family law courts and to encourage use of appropriate dispute resolution and child-centred holistic responses to family law problems. The strategy will provide a framework to guide and prioritize activities that support these principles.

Implement a court annexed mediation program in the Court of Queen's Bench.

- A two-year pilot project encouraging and enabling the use of interest-based mediation for civil, non-family cases in Court of Queen's Bench was launched in Edmonton and Lethbridge. Education and awareness activities commenced in the fall of 2004 and the project began to accept cases January 1, 2005.

Develop a strategy to address increasing traffic and bylaw infraction ticket volumes and ensure effective processing in the courts. This is to include exploring online fine payments and electronic ticket processing.

- Online fine payments were introduced on March 1, 2004. During the first year, over $1.2 million in fine payments were made online. An assessment of the viability of proceeding with electronic ticketing was completed through the Organizational Renewal Project. Electronic ticketing was deemed viable and is expected to proceed to the design stage by the end of March 2006.

Working in partnership with the Alberta Law Reform Institute, rewrite and reduce the complexity of the Rules of Court.

- The Rules Project of the Alberta Law Reform Institute is ongoing. Consultation papers have been circulated, responses obtained from stakeholders, and recommendations made to the steering committee. The drafting of the new rules has commenced.

Continue to support and develop court initiatives in First Nation communities, including reviewing the recommendation of the evaluation of the Tsuu T'ina Nation Court and Peacemaker System, and develop a plan of action.

The advisory committee has reviewed the recommendations in the report Tsuu T'ina Nation Court and Peacemaker System: An Evaluation. An action plan outlining the advisory committee's preliminary response to the recommendations has been completed and is in the process of being finalized.

Work with Solicitor General to enhance the integration and effectiveness of the provincial court security program to ensure safety of the judiciary, prosecutors, court staff and general public.

Alberta Justice, Alberta Solicitor General and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation developed a comprehensive court security plan to ensure the safety of the judiciary, prosecutors, defense counsel, court staff and the general public. The plan received support from Treasury Board and implementation will commence in 2005-06.

In context of the automobile insurance developments:

a) work with the Alberta Law Reform Institute in areas of tort reform, including structured settlements and joint and several liability, to improve the efficiency of the justice system; and

b) consult with the Law Society of Alberta and the Canadian Bar Association in regard to the issues of:

   i. professional advertising by lawyers; and

   ii. whether the current contingency rules need to be changed.

As a result of a request from Alberta Justice, comments have been received from the Alberta Law Reform Institute on the structured settlement amendments in the *Judicature Act*. These comments will be used as part of a broader consultation on possible amendments to the existing structured settlement provisions.

The department has previously consulted with the Law Society on contingency rules. The minister has discussed auto insurance reform with both the Canadian Bar Association and the Law Society of Alberta. The minister has also raised the issues of advertising restrictions and contingency fee regulations with the Law Society of Alberta.

Key Measure 1

In 2003-04, Alberta's median elapsed time from first to last appearance in Provincial Court was 73 days.

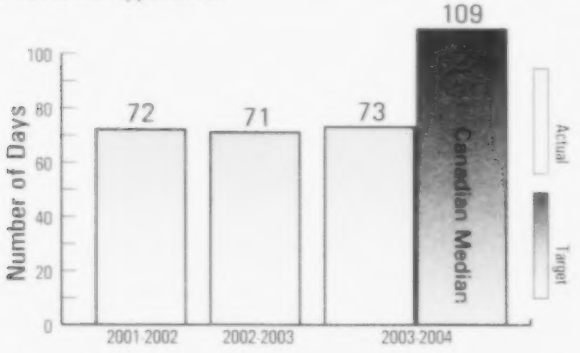
Median elapsed time from first to last appearance	The most recent data available is for 2003-04. The median elapsed time from first to last appearance is 73 days for Provincial Court. The ministry met its target, which was to be below the Canadian median of 109 days. In 2002-03, the median elapsed time in Alberta was 71 days.

The ministry must ensure that Albertans are provided with access to the courts in a reasonable amount of time.

Median elapsed time from first to last appearance represents the midpoint in the time elapsed between the first and last appearance for all cases processed in Provincial Court.

In 2003-04, there were 60,105 disposed cases, which is an increase of 1.4 per cent over the 59,248 disposed cases in 2002-03. The 2.8 per cent increase in median elapsed time may be largely attributed to the 1.4 per cent increase in the number of disposed cases and the availability of resources to address the increase.

The median elapsed time in days that it takes to process a case in provincial criminal court from first to last appearance.



For methodology related to this measure see page 56

Key Measure 2

In 2004-05 the civil mediation settlement rate was 63 per cent.

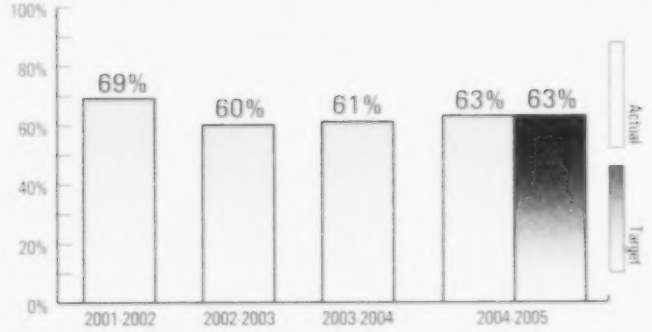
Provincial Court civil mediation settlement rate	In 2004-05, Alberta's Provincial Court civil mediation settlement rate was 63 per cent. The target for the measure was 63 per cent.

The Provincial Court civil mediation settlement rate reflects the success of the mediation program. The program aims to increase the number of civil cases resolved through mediation and reduce the number of civil cases that proceed to court. The settlement rate is the number of civil actions settled through mediation in the Civil Claims Program divided by the total number of civil claims settled or not settled through such mediation. This is a blended rate for Calgary and Edmonton.

In 2004-05, Calgary's Provincial Court civil mediation settlement rate was 58 per cent and Edmonton's rate was 68 per cent.

In some cases, lawyers are opposed to mediation or parties are not willing to negotiate in good faith. Both of these factors are hindrances to achieving successful mediated settlements.

The mediation settlement rate is the number of civil actions settled through mediation in the Civil Claims Program divided by the total number of civil claims settled or not settled through such mediation. This is a blended settlement rate of Calgary and Edmonton.



For methodology related to this measure see **page 56**.

GOAL FIVE – Improve Knowledge of, and Confidence in, the Justice System

The justice system is complex. With numerous stakeholders involved in the process, it is a continuous challenge to coordinate initiatives and to ensure effective communication to the public. Timely, coordinated and accessible information to the public will improve knowledge and confidence in the system.

Strategic Accomplishments

The following section highlights the ministry's accomplishments related to the strategies identified under goal five in the 2004-07 business plan.

Develop and implement strategic plans with community partners to inform Albertans about justice related initiatives.

Alberta Justice enhanced existing key stakeholder relationships through on-going dialogue, and expanded the role of the Justice Education Working Committee to include focus on public confidence. Alberta Justice developed a strategic plan with its partners to merge three existing speaker projects (Canadian Bar Association-Alberta Branch, the judiciary, and Alberta Justice) to design an Alberta-wide Justice Education Speakers Centre.

Facilitate public legal education by providing information, services and assistance to the public and specified targeted audiences.

Alberta Justice worked with justice partners and staff to complete, launch, and promote Alberta's Law-related Information Network *(A-Link)* to Albertans, justice programs, and service providers. Alberta Justice also collaborated with justice partners and Alberta Education to commence development of an electronic supplementary justice resource and printable materials, produced to meet the requirements of the revised Grade 3 Alberta Social Studies Curriculum.

Key Measure 1

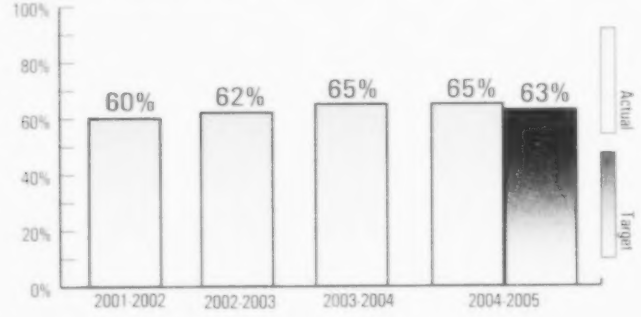
The majority of Albertans feel knowledgeable about the justice system in Alberta. Respondents from households earning $20,000 to less than $30,000 annually felt less knowledgeable.

Public knowledge of the justice system	The results of the *2004-05 Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Survey of Albertans* indicate that 65 per cent of Albertans feel knowledgeable about the justice system in Alberta. 8 per cent feel very knowledgeable and 57 per cent feel somewhat knowledgeable. This figure is the same as last year and exceeds this year's target of 63 per cent.

If Albertans are to have the ability to access the justice system and the services it provides, they must have some knowledge about the system. The results of the public opinion survey aid the ministry in determining the extent to which Albertans feel knowledgeable about the justice system.

In addition to being asked how knowledgeable they feel, Albertans were also asked how interested they are in learning more about the justice system in Alberta. 74 per cent of Albertans said they are interested in learning more about the justice system. Of those who indicated interest in learning more about the justice system, 81 per cent of respondents indicated interest in learning more about how crime prevention programs are delivered, 79 per cent indicated interest in learning about how fair courts are provided, and 78 per cent indicated interest in learning more about how offenders are held in custody or supervised in the community, how crimes are prosecuted, and how the public is protected from terrorist threats or activities.

The percentage of Albertans who feel "somewhat knowledgeable" to "very knowledgeable" about the justice system in Alberta.



For methodology related to this measure see page 57.

Key Measure 2

The majority of Albertans have confidence in the justice system. Respondents who have the least confidence in the system were likely to be victims of crime and those with less than a high school education.

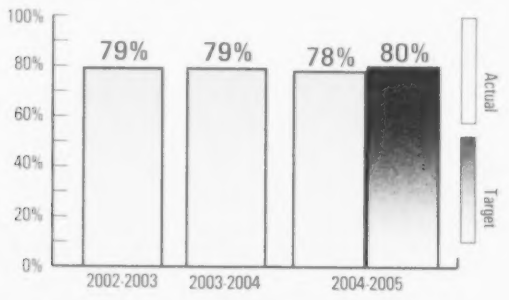
Public confidence in the justice system	The results of the *2004-05 Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Survey of Albertans* indicate that 78 per cent of Albertans have confidence in the justice system in Alberta. 14 per cent of Albertans have a lot of confidence in the justice system and 64 per cent have some confidence in the justice system.

This was a new measure in 2003-04. In addition to feeling knowledgeable, it is also very important that Albertans have confidence in the justice system. The results of the public opinion survey aid the ministry in determining the extent to which Albertans have confidence in the justice system.

This year's result of 78 per cent is lower than last year's result of 79 per cent. This is lower than the target of 80 per cent. This decrease is not statistically significant.

In addition to being asked how much confidence they have in the justice system, Albertans were also asked how much confidence they have that a good job has been done over the past twelve months by Alberta Justice and by Alberta Solicitor General. Since 2004, there has been a 2 per cent decrease in the percentage of Albertans with a lot or some confidence that a good job has been done by the Alberta Department of Justice and Attorney General, from 74 per cent in 2003-04 to 72 per cent in 2004-05. Again this decrease is not statistically significant.

The percentage of Albertans who feel "some confidence" to "a lot of confidence" in the justice system in Alberta.



For methodology related to this measure see **page 57**.

GOAL SIX – Assist Government Ministries to Achieve Their Objectives Through Provision of Effective Legal and Related Strategic Services

The government has a number of roles in society, including service provider, community partner, and lawmaker. These roles involve relationships with individuals, families, communities, businesses, and other governments. Effective legal services reduce the potential for conflict involving the government, and protect and advance the interests of the government. By providing legal strategic corporate advice, Alberta Justice can assist other ministries in achieving their policy objectives, while minimizing conflict, legal risk, and constitutional issues.

Strategic Accomplishments

The following section highlights the ministry's accomplishments related to the strategies identified under goal six in the 2004-07 business plan.

Enhance alignment of legal service resources with government ministries by continuing to:

- implement the use of legal service protocol agreements with client ministries, and
- improve our corporate counsel services to meet the changing needs of the client ministries.

Alberta Justice implemented Legal Service Protocols with all ministries except Alberta Children's Services, which has a unique agreement. The protocols maximize the value of legal and related strategic services provided to government, by clarifying responsibilities for the provision of the legal services and recognizing the joint responsibility to respond to legal service demands. The protocol is renewed on an annual basis with clients, and outlines each ministry's legal needs for the upcoming year. Alberta Justice continues to find ways to enhance corporate counsel services to clients.

Enhance the preventative law component of corporate counsel services to assist client ministries in identifying and managing legal risk.

Alberta Justice has conducted in-house education in the area of preventative law to ensure that lawyers understand the need for proactive legal services that assist clients in identifying and managing legal risk. All lawyers have identified specific areas to assist clients.

Key Measure 1

The vast majority of client ministries were satisfied with the legal services provided by Alberta Justice.

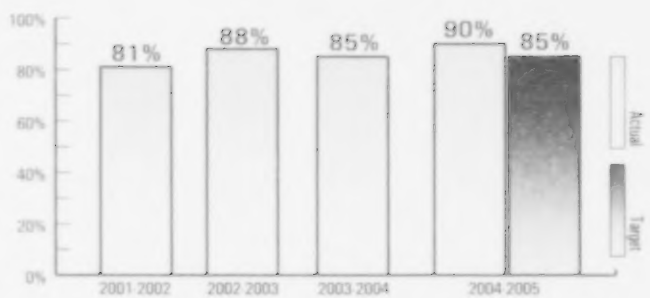
Client satisfaction with legal services	In 2004-05, 90 per cent of clients surveyed responded that they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the legal services provided by the Alberta Justice, Civil Law. This is an increase over last year's result of 85 per cent and exceeds the target for 2004-05 of 85 per cent.

As part of the ongoing process to ensure that Alberta Justice continues to provide effective legal services, the ministry conducts an annual client satisfaction survey. The questionnaire provides clients with the opportunity to rate their level of satisfaction with the legal services they have received.

In 2004-05, 90 per cent of clients were either satisfied or very satisfied with civil legal services provided. This result exceeded the department's target for the year of 85 per cent. This year's outcome is an improvement from the 85 per cent achieved last year. The increase in client satisfaction could be attributed to the implementation of legal service protocols with client ministries and the division's focus on improving the corporate counsel services provided to clients.

This year, the survey scale was reduced from last year's six-point scale, to a five-point scale to make the survey more consistent with the annual *Government of Alberta Corporate Human Resources Survey* and other surveys conducted within Legal Services Division. The results of the survey assist Alberta Justice in assessing success at delivering effective legal services to government.

The percentage of clients "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the legal services provided by Alberta Justice.



For methodology related to this measure see page 58.

Key Measure 2

The vast majority of client ministries were satisfied that the legal services provided by Alberta Justice helped them to achieve their department's corporate goals.

Client satisfaction with assistance in meeting corporate goals	In 2004-05, 87 per cent of clients surveyed responded that they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the assistance provided by Alberta Justice in meeting their corporate goals.

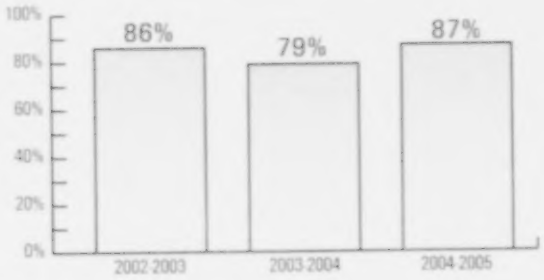
As part of the ongoing process to ensure that Alberta Justice continues to provide effective and strategic legal services, the ministry coordinates an annual client satisfaction survey. The questionnaire provides clients with the opportunity to rate their level of satisfaction with the legal services they have received.

This year's outcome, 87 per cent of clients satisfied or very satisfied with assistance from Alberta Justice, is significantly higher than the 79 per cent achieved last year. The improved client satisfaction could be attributed to the ministry's increased focus on preventative law to assist client ministries in identifying and managing legal risk. A target for this measure was not set in the 2004-07 business plan; one has been established in the 2005-08 business plan, and will be reported in the 2005-06 annual report.

This year, the survey scale was reduced from last year's six-point scale, to a five-point scale to make the survey more consistent with the annual *Government of Alberta Corporate Human Resources Survey* and other surveys conducted within Legal Services Division.

This measure was also developed for internal monitoring of legal services performed.

The percentage of clients "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the assistance provided by the Legal Services Division in meeting corporate goals.



For methodology related to this measure see page 58.

The *Anti-Terrorism Act* requires the Attorney General of Alberta to publish an annual report on the operation of those parts of the *Act* dealing with investigative hearings and recognizance with conditions.

This constitutes the annual report of the Attorney General of Alberta covering the third year of operation of the *Act* from December 24, 2003 to December 23, 2004.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF ALBERTA DECEMBER 24, 2003 TO DECEMBER 23, 2004

I. **Report on the Operation of Sections 83.28 and 83.29** (Investigative Hearing) For the period from December 24, 2003 to December 23, 2004, the Attorney General of Alberta reports that there were no applications initiated under these sections of the *Criminal Code*. As such, there is no data to report in relation to the reporting requirements under paragraphs 83.31(1)(a) to (c) of the *Criminal Code*.

II. **Report on the Operation of Section 83.3** (Recognizance with Conditions) For the period from December 24, 2003 to December 23, 2004, the Attorney General of Alberta reports that there were no cases initiated under this section of the *Criminal Code*. As such, there is no data to report in relation to the reporting requirements in paragraphs 83.31(2)(a) to (f) of the *Criminal Code*.

Promote Safe Communities in Alberta

Key Measure 1

A public opinion telephone survey is conducted on an annual basis. The survey averages 20 minutes in length and was last conducted in January 2005. Professionally trained interviewers conducted all interviews from a central telephone facility. The survey is completed on a computer-assisted telephone interviewing system that allows for ongoing tabulation of results. Ten per cent of all interviews were monitored online.

As in previous years, in 2005 a total of 750 surveys were completed. To survey a random and representative sample of adult Albertans, quotas were established based on Statistics Canada's 2001 Census data. In each of six geographic regions of the province, the number of interviews in each age-gender segment was proportionate to their 2001 population estimates. Results are reliable to within +/-3.6 per cent at the 95 per cent confidence level.

Key Measure 2

As described under Key Measure 1: Public Perception of Safety in the Home.

Work With the Solicitor General to Ensure Victims Have A More Meaningful Role in the Criminal Justice System

Key Measure 1

The survey questionnaire was the same as that used in 2003-04. Two Alberta Justice wage employees and one survey administrator hired temporarily on wages completed the telephone surveys.

In Calgary, a random sample of people who contacted the Public Assistance Unit (PAU) from July to December 2004 was selected to complete the telephone survey. The survey took an average of five minutes and was completed from December 2004 through March 2005. Respondents were over the age of 18 and had access to a working telephone. Minors and individuals without a valid telephone number were considered out of scope. Proxy responses, individuals who declined to participate in the survey, and individuals who were not contacted after ten attempts were considered non-responses. The survey population was 761 and using a formula provided by Statistics Canada in *How Big Should the Sample Be?*, a sample size of 340 surveys was required, and 344 surveys were completed. The sample interval was 2.75; therefore one out of every three names from the randomly ordered sample list was selected. Results are reliable to within +/-5% at the 95% confidence level.

In Edmonton, the sample group included those individuals who contacted the PAU from July 2004 to December 2004 and whose names and phone numbers the PAU recorded. As with the Calgary sample, respondents were 18 years or older and had access to a working telephone. Similarly, minors and individuals without a valid telephone number were considered out of scope. Proxy responses, individuals who declined to participate in the survey, and individuals who were not contacted after ten attempts were considered non-responses. The sample consisted of 148 and as none were declared out of scope, 148 surveys were completed.

The Regional Offices that were surveyed were: Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Peace River, Red Deer, St. Paul, Vegreville, and Wetaskiwin. The sample groups included all of the individuals who contacted the respective Crown Prosecutors' Offices from July 2004 to December 2004. The regions do not have specified Public Assistance Units with their own telephone numbers, as does Edmonton and Calgary, but instead the support staff in these offices provide Public Assistance Services (PAS) through their general reception line. Since some of the regions had extremely small sample sizes, a complete analysis and write-up of the survey results was only completed for those areas that had a sample size of 30 or more valid (in-scope) numbers. Those regions that had less than 30 valid numbers only had their satisfaction levels analyzed in the write-up. Although the sample sizes in the regions were substantially smaller than Edmonton and Calgary, the same inclusion rules were applied: respondents were 18 years or older and had access to a working telephone. As previously noted, minors and individuals without a valid telephone number were considered out of scope. Proxy responses, individuals who declined to participate in the survey, and individuals who were not contacted after ten attempts were considered non-responses.

The regional average of respondents who were satisfied with public assistance services was calculated by adding the satisfaction rate of Grande Prairie 88.2%, Lethbridge 82.4%, Medicine Hat 85.2%, Peace River 64.5%, Red Deer 60.0%, St. Paul 66.7%, Wetaskiwin 78.4%, and dividing by seven. These offices each had more than 30 surveys completed.

Provide Access to Justice Services for Albertans in Need

Key Measure 1

Client satisfaction with the services of the Office of the Public Trustee is assessed using an internally conducted client satisfaction survey. Survey forms are sent to beneficiaries and minors after completion of administration and following payments of the beneficial interest distribution. Surveys are also sent to business partners, parents and guardians of minors and private and public guardians of dependent adults. During 2004-05, 2952 surveys were sent to beneficiaries of estates, minors on achieving majority, parents and guardians of minors, and business partners. Nine hundred thirty-one surveys were returned, indicating a response rate of 32 per cent. The overall satisfaction rating is generated by using the results of the entire survey rather than using one question as the satisfaction rating.

Responses received from clients are entered into a specially designed system and related to the time period in which the survey was sent. Consequently, the rate of response will vary as responses are received.

Key Measure 2

In October 2004, the program deployed the new Maintenance Information Management System (MIMS) to replace the Maintenance Enforcement Tracking System (METS). Prior to October, terms of court orders were entered into METS. After October, they were entered into MIMS. Support payments that were due each month were then calculated by METS/MIMS. Payments received were also entered into the system and calculated by METS/MIMS monthly. Regular dollars due were compared by METS/MIMS to net revenues to determine the percentage of dollars due that were collected. This collection rate was presented monthly to program management as an administrative tool. The data was aggregated into an annual figure to provide the collection rate for the year.

Key Measure 3

To gather opinions on legal aid services, the Legal Aid Society of Alberta (LASA) conducted a telephone survey with legal aid applicants. Legal aid officers informed applicants about the survey during the interview process and recorded their consent to being contacted for the survey. Prairie Research Associates Inc. (PRA) contacted only those applicants who gave their consent.

In consultation with staff at the Legal Aid Society, PRA drafted a survey questionnaire. To enable a comparison of selected survey results over time, the questionnaire contains many questions that are either identical or similar to the questions from the 2004 survey. However, some changes were made. During the fall of 2004, legal aid plans across Canada discussed establishing a common measurement system by using the Common Measurement Tool (CMT) developed by the Institute for Citizen Centered Service. As a result, some survey questions were altered to match those asked by other legal aid plans and to follow the format of the CMT. In addition, LASA added a section to the survey to gather more information about legal aid recipients' experiences with their legal aid lawyers.

By March 31, 2005, PRA had completed the telephone survey with a total of 500 legal aid applicants, of whom 358 had received legal aid, 107 had been denied coverage and 35 could not report on the status of their legal aid application. Almost one-fifth of the sample was incapable of completing the survey because these applicants were either no longer at the telephone number provided or were in detention facilities. The response rate for the survey was just over one-third (34.7 per cent).

Some slight changes were made to the questions used for measurement in the annual report. The 2004-05 survey scale asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with the services received (very satisfied, satisfied, neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, dissatisfied, very dissatisfied, not applicable/no response) as opposed to rating the services received (excellent, good, fair, poor, can't recall, no response), which was the scale used for the 2003-04 survey. This change will make the measure more consistent with the other client satisfaction measures used in the Alberta Justice annual report.

Promote A Fair and Accessible Civil and Criminal Justice System

Key Measure 1

Median elapsed time from first to last appearance represents the mid-point in elapsed time between first and last appearance for all cases processed in Provincial Court.

Performance data for median elapsed time from first to last appearance is obtained from the *Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS)*, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS). The ministry provides annual data from the Justice Online Information Network to the *Adult Criminal Court Survey* through an automated interface. At CCJS, the data are edited, verified and signed off with the ministry. In 2003-04, adult criminal courts in nine provinces and one territory reported to the ACCS. Reporting jurisdictions include Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon. Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut do not supply data to the survey. In addition, in 2003-04 Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon reported superior court data to the ACCS (less than 1% of total caseload). These jurisdictions represent approximately 90% of the national adult criminal court caseload.

Key Measure 2

The settlement rate is a percentage of all scheduled cases resolved. The settlement rate is the number of civil actions settled through mediation in the civil claims program divided by the total number of civil claims settled or not settled through such mediation. This is a blended rate for Calgary and Edmonton. Every month, Calgary and Edmonton mediation coordinators count the successful and unsuccessful mediations and enter them in a spreadsheet to arrive at a total and settlement rate. The spreadsheets are sent to staff in the Strategic Initiatives Branch, Court Services Division at Alberta Justice, who then enter the Calgary and Edmonton successful and unsuccessful mediations into an ACCESS database.

Improve Knowledge of, and Confidence in, the Justice System

Key Measure 1

As described under Goal One, Key Measure 1: Public Perception of Safety in the Home.

Key Measure 2

As described under Goal One, Key Measure 1: Public Perception of Safety in the Home.

Assist Government Ministries to Achieve their Objectives Through Provision of Effective Legal and Related Strategic Services

Key Measure 1

Client satisfaction with legal services is determined by an internally conducted survey. Alberta Finance's Statistics Unit provided consultancy advice on the survey in 2004-05. A random sample of 948 clients was chosen from the total population of 2429. Out of the 948 surveys sent out, 470 responses were received, for a response rate of 49.6 per cent. Based on this response, overall survey results are precise within +/- 4.3 per cent at the 95 per cent confidence level. Thirteen questions in the survey asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with services received. The satisfaction scale provided for these questions was comprised of five levels of satisfaction with "1" representing "Very Dissatisfied" and "5" representing "Very Satisfied". The survey scale was reduced from last year's six-point scale to make the survey more consistent with the annual Government of Alberta corporate survey and other surveys conducted within the Legal Services Division, which are also based on a five-point scale. This year's survey population also included all client contacts from Crown agents such as regional authorities to ensure that all clients of the division were represented in the survey results.

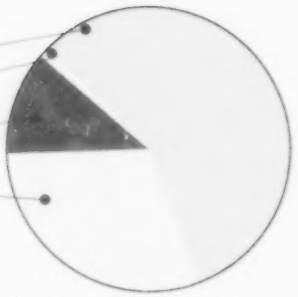
Key Measure 2

As described under Key Measure 1: Client Satisfaction with Legal Services

Operating Results

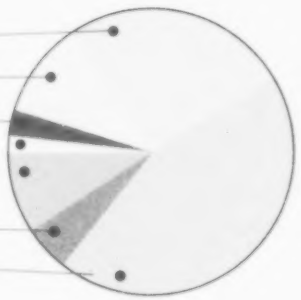
2004-05 Actual Revenue by Source ($120.1 million)

Other Revenue	57%	($68.6)
Investment Income	1%	($0.6)
Transfers from Government of Canada	12%	($14.7)
Premiums, Fees, and Licences	30%	($36.2)



2004-05 Actual Expenses by Program ($283.3 million)

Legal Services	26%	($74.0)
Support for Legal Aid	11%	($31.9)
Public Trustee	3%	($9.1)
Medical Examiner	2%	($5.8)
Statutory	9%	($25.7)
Ministry Support Services	5%	($13.9)
Court Services	44%	($122.9)



Operating Results

Ministry revenues in 2004-05 were $4.7 million higher than in the previous year. Annual spending increased by $19.7 million consistent with the approved increase to the ministry's base budget. Ministry revenues and expenses are from the Statement of Operations on page 72.

Revenue

Total revenue increased by four per cent to $120.1 million. Transfers from the Government of Canada increased by $2.5 million mainly due to an increased contribution for legal aid. Revenues from fees decreased by $2.4 million primarily resulting from changes in the billing practices implemented in 2003-04 by the Office of the Public Trustee. Revenue from other sources increased by $4.6 million. The $4.6 million increase was due to a combination of an increase for fines and fine late payment penalties and collections within the Maintenance Enforcement Program and the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims recovery program.

Expenses

Ministry expenses were $0.4 million higher than the approved spending level of $282.9 million. Voted operating expenses exceeded the approved budget of $255.2 million by $2.4 million. Supplementary funding of $9.0 million was added primarily to pay Provincial Court Judges in accordance with the 2003 judicial compensation commission and for the implementation of the *Child Youth and Family Enhancement Act*.

Comparison of 2004-05 Budget to 2004-05 Actual

Actual operating expenses for Legal Services, Public Trustee's Office and the Medical Examiner's Office of $88.9 million was less than the budgeted amount by $2.4 million or less than three per cent. The variance mainly resulted from general salaries, wages and employee benefits compensation settlements being lower than the funding estimates. Actual operating expenses in Ministry Support Services of $13.9 million were slightly less than the budgeted amount of $14.7 million. The $5.5 million over-expenditure in Court Services was primarily due to retroactive payments made as a result of a compensation order for Provincial Court judges.

Statutory expenses of $26.2 million for the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims (MVAC) program were $0.8 million less than budget and comparable to the $25.7 million spent in 2003-04. There was no budget provision for the $1.2 million decrease to the liability for MVAC unsettled claims, which were recorded and reported during the 2004-05 year.

The ministry budgets an amount of $0.7 million for statutory valuation adjustments to the provisions for doubtful accounts and vacation pay. The actual amount for these valuation adjustments was $0.7 million for the 2004-05 year.

Ministry Support Services expenditures increased by $1.8 million, primarily due to salary settlements and an increase in the central services costs charged to this budget. Salary settlements and judicial compensation increases with related employer contribution costs accounted for $8.8 million of the $10.0 million increase in Court Services. Additional resources of $2.2 million were directed to ticket processing. New initiatives to provide funding for the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act* and the Calgary Provincial Criminal Court increased expenses by $1.0 million. These additional expenditures were offset slightly by savings in other areas by $2.0 million.

Salary settlements with related employer contribution costs accounted for $3.8 million of the $4.1 million increase in Legal Services. Amortization for the Maintenance Enforcement Information Management System (MIMS), a system that went into production in 2004-05, accounted for a further $0.7 million of the variance. These increases were offset by a decrease in general supplies and services expenditures. Salary settlements amounted to $0.4 million of the $0.7 million increase in the Public Trustee and Medical Examiner offices. The remaining difference was due to an increase in general supplies and services expenditures.

The liability for MVAC unsettled claims was recorded in 2003-04 and again in 2004-05 as recommended by the Office of the Auditor General. The $1.2 million decrease to the liability is the difference between the amounts estimated for unsettled claims of $70.6 million at March 31, 2005 and $71.8 million at March 31, 2004. The provision for unused vacation decreased by $0.3 million to $1.4 million concurrent with a decrease in unused vacation days by Ministry staff. The provision for doubtful accounts decreased by $2.5 million from $1.8 million in 2003-04 to $(0.7) million in 2004-05. The provision for federal statute fines, which may be deemed uncollectible, decreased by $2.3 million to $(1.3) million. The provision for uncollectible provincial fines, penalties and other receivables decreased by $0.2 million.

Core Business Results

(in thousands)

	2004-05 Budget	2004-05 Actual	2003-04 Actual
Prosecutions	42,401	42,274	40,977
Courts	120,088	125,060	116,549
Legal Services to Government	24,469	22,775	22,145
Justice Services to Albertans in Need	95,964	93,208	77,672
	282,922	283,317	257,343

Prosecutions: includes Criminal Justice Division.

Courts: includes Calgary Court Operations, Edmonton Court Operations, Regional Court Operations, the Court of Appeal, Justice Online Information Network (JOIN) Operations and the Fines Enforcement Program.

Legal Services To Government: Includes Civil Law, Legislative Counsel and Law Reform.

Justice Services to Albertans in Need: includes Maintenance Enforcement Program, Legal Aid, the Office of the Public Trustee, the Medical Examiner's Office, Child Centred Family Justice, Aboriginal Court Worker Program, Official Documents and Motor Vehicle Accident Claims.

2004-05 Actual Expense by Core Business

Legal Services to Government	8%
Justice Services to Albertans in Need	33%
Courts	44%
Prosecutions	15%

Core Business Results

Although expenses by core business have been associated with the ministry's goals, there is no supportable basis to enable redistribution of program delivery costs to each goal. Direct program expenses and statutory expenses have been redistributed to the core business. Ministry Support Services have been proportionally allocated to the core businesses.

Prosecutions budget of $42.4 million exceeded the expenses by $0.1 million or less than one per cent of the total.

Courts budget of $120.1 million was $5.0 million less than the $125.1 million in actual expenses. Funding of $90.9 million was allocated to salaries, wages and employee benefits related expenditures of $93.1 million. The salaries, wages and employee benefits over-expenditure is $2.2 million, primarily due to salary settlements and the corresponding employer contributions. Other voted expenditures of $27.4 million exceeded the budget of $24.0 million by $3.4 million. The over-expenditure related to information technology improvements; an increase in travel costs, repairs and maintenance, and materials and supplies purchases; and data processing charges relating to the JOIN system. This was offset by an under-expenditure pertaining to the amortization of capital assets of $0.3 million. The ministry budgeted a nominal amount of $0.3 million for statutory valuation adjustments with the actual change to the provisions for doubtful accounts and vacation pay amounting to $0.6 million. Salary settlements and other compensation increases resulted in a vacation liability increase of $0.7 million. The provision for uncollectible fines and late payment penalties was less than the budgeted amount by $1.3 million.

The Legal Services to Government budget of $24.5 million exceeded actual expenditures of $22.8 million by $1.7 million. Salaries, wages and employee benefits funding of $20.6 million was unexpended by $2.2 million due to delayed hiring and staff replacement in Legal Services because of deferred implementation. Other voted expenditures of $3.4 million exceeded the budget of $2.8 million by $0.6 million mainly due to information technology improvements and the need for temporary project staffing. The allocation of Ministry Support Services was also $0.1 million lower than the amount budgeted.

The Justice Services to Albertans in Need budget of $96.0 million exceeded actual expenditures of $93.2 million by $2.8 million. Salaries, wages and employee benefits expenditures of $24.1 million were in excess of the $24.0 million budget by $0.1 million or less than one half of one per cent of budget. The budget for other expenditures was $67.9 million of which $66.4 million was spent. The majority of the $1.5 million variance was primarily due to the budget to settle claims involving uninsured and unknown vehicles in the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims (MVAC) program being under spent by $1.1 million. There was no budget provision for the $1.2 million decrease to

the liability for MVAC unsettled claims or the increase to the provision for doubtful accounts of $0.4 million. The allocation of Ministry Support Services was also $0.4 million lower than the amount budgeted. The unbudgeted decrease to the provision for vacation pay was $0.2 million.

Prosecutions expenses increased by $1.3 million. Salary settlements and renewal of prosecutions resulted in an increase of $1.8 million. Other supplies and services expenditures were $0.4 million less than in 2003-04 primarily because of less spent on information technology improvements and central services costs. There was an increase to grants to non-profit organizations by $0.1 million in 2004-05. The provision for vacation decreased by $0.2 million.

Courts expenditures increased by $8.5 million primarily due to salary settlements and judicial compensation increases of $11.6 million. The increase in salaries, wages and employee benefits was offset primarily by a decrease in the provision for doubtful accounts of $2.5 million, with the federal statute portion decreasing by $2.3 million and the provincial statute portion decreasing by $0.2 million. Other operational costs decreased by $0.6 million. Amortization of capital asset purchases increased by $0.2 million. Allocated ministry support services increased by less than $0.1 million. The unused vacation liability provision decreased by less than $0.1 million.

Legal Services to government expenses increased by $0.6 million. Salary settlements and other salaries, wages and employee benefits initiatives increased costs by $0.2 million. Other supplies and services and costs and grant expenditures increased by $0.5 million. Allocated ministry support services decreased by $0.1 million.

Justice Services for Albertans in Need expenditures increased by $15.5 million. Salaries, wages and employee benefits increased by $3.1 million mainly due to salary settlements. There was an increase to the grant to the Legal Aid Society of $3.1 million offset fully by federal contributions. Amortization of capital assets, a non-cash expense, increased by $0.7 million due to the Maintenance Information Management System (MIMS) being put into production in 2004-05. An increase in the valuation adjustment for unsettled claims in the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims (MVAC) program of $8.7 million was slightly offset by a decrease of $0.3 million to settle claims involving uninsured and unknown vehicles in the MVAC program. The provision for vacation pay for Maintenance Enforcement, Public Trustee's Office and Medical Examiner's Office decreased by $0.1 million. Allocated ministry support services increased by $0.3 million.

Functional Results

(in thousands)

	2004-05 Budget	2004-05 Actual	2003-04 Actual
Protection of Persons and Property	224,080	225,980	212,277
Social Services	58,842	57,337	45,066
	282,922	283,317	257,343

Protection of Persons & Property: Includes expenses for services provided to ensure the security of persons and property through the courts of law, regulatory measures and other protection of persons and property.

Social Services: Covers actions taken by the government either alone or in co-operation with Albertans, to offset or to forestall situations where the well being of individuals or families is threatened by circumstances beyond their control. This includes the provision of legal aid and motor vehicle accident claims.

2004-05 Actual Expense By Function

Protection of Persons & Property	80%
Social Services	20%

Functional Results

Protection of Persons and Property expenditures includes Court Services, Legal Services, Public Trustee's Office, Medical Examiner's Office and Ministry Support Services. Social Services includes Legal Aid and the statutory appropriation for the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims (MVAC) program.

Actual expenditures of $226.0 million for protection of persons and property exceeded the budget of $224.1 million by $1.9 million. The budget amount does not include $9.0 million in supplementary funding to fund salary settlements and judicial compensation increases with related employer contribution costs within Court Services and Legal Services, and technological improvements within the Public Trustee's Office. Funding of $174.0 million was allocated for salary, wage and employer contribution expenses of $173.8 million. Other operating expenses of $52.0 million exceeded the budget of $49.4 million by $2.6 million. The majority of the over expenditure related to an increase in contracted services, central service costs and information technology improvements within each of the divisions. Valuation adjustments for vacation pay and uncollectible accounts receivable of $0.7 million was less than the budgeted amount by $2.9 million. A decrease to the number of uncollectible fines caused a $2.5 million decrease to the provision for uncollectible accounts and vacation time taken resulted in a $0.4 million decrease for the vacation pay provision.

Social services actual expenditures of $57.3 million were $1.5 million less than the $58.8 million budget. The decrease to the provision for unsettled MVAC claims accounted for $1.2 million of the difference. The remaining difference is a result of the provision for uncollectible accounts costing an additional $0.4 million offset by an amount of $0.7 million less than budget to settle claims involving uninsured and unknown vehicles.

Protection of persons and property expenses increased by $13.7 million. Salary settlements and other compensation increased by approximately $13.4 million. Other increases included additional resources of $2.2 million directed to ticket processing, $1.0 million for other initiatives to provide funding for the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act* and the Calgary Provincial Criminal Court, and $0.7 for amortization of the new Maintenance Enforcement Information System (MIMS). These increases were offset by other savings in general supplies and services and contracted services expenditures. There was a decrease to the provision for federal statute fines of $2.5 million while the provincial statute fines and penalties remained relatively stable.

In social services, the grant for legal aid was increased by $3.1 million offset fully by federal contributions. MVAC program delivery expenditures increased by less than $0.5 million to $26.2 million or less than two per cent. There was an increase to the provision of unsettled MVAC claims of $8.7 million and decreases to the provision for uncollectible accounts and provision for vacation pay of $2.5 million and $0.4 million respectively.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Year Ended March 31, 2005

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AUDITOR GENERAL
Alberta

Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly

I have audited the statement of financial position of the Ministry of Justice as at March 31, 2005, and the statements of operations and cash flow for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of the Ministry. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Ministry as at March 31, 2005, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Fred J. Dunn FCA
Auditor General

Edmonton, Alberta
May 20, 2005

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Year Ended March 31, 2005

(in thousands)

	2005 Budget (Schedule 4)	2005 Actual	2004 Actual
Revenues (Schedule 1)			
Transfer from the Government of Canada	$ 13,640	$ 14,724	$ 12,183
Investment Income	325	596	578
Fees, Permits and Licences	35,162	36,220	38,641
Other Revenue	64,502	68,615	64,045
	113,629	120,155	115,447
Expenses – Directly Incurred (Note 2b and Schedule 8)			
Voted (Schedules 3 and 5)			
Ministry Support Services	14,656	13,859	12,090
Court Services	117,413	122,919	112,892
Legal Services	77,081	74,064	69,980
Support for Legal Aid	31,898	31,898	28,798
Public Trustee	8,979	9,110	9,001
Medical Examiner	5,218	5,764	5,168
	255,245	257,614	237,929
Statutory (Schedules 3 and 5)			
Motor Vehicle Accident Claims	26,944	26,186	25,721
Valuation Adjustments			
Provision for Doubtful Accounts	200	(649)	1,840
Provision for Vacation Pay	533	1,361	1,741
Decrease in Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Liabilities	-	(1,195)	(9,888)
	27,677	25,703	19,414
	282,922	283,317	257,343
Net Operating Results	$ (169,293)	$ (163,162)	$ (141,896)

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

March 31, 2005

	(in thousands) 2005	2004
Assets		
Cash	$ 20,911	$ 8,851
Accounts Receivable (Note 3)	61,369	62,746
Advances	49	53
Tangible Capital Assets (Note 4)	11,161	9,664
	$ 93,490	$ 81,314
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	$ 109,969	$ 117,154
Unearned Revenue	1,104	1,153
	111,073	118,307
Net Liabilities		
Net Liabilities at Beginning of Year	(36,993)	(44,253)
Net Operating Results	(163,162)	(141,896)
Net Transfer from General Revenues	182,572	149,156
Net Liabilities at End of Year	(17,583)	(36,993)
	$ 93,490	$ 81,314

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Year Ended March 31, 2005

	(in thousands) 2005	2004
Operating Transactions		
Net Operating Results	$ (163,162)	$ (141,896)
Non-cash items included in Net Operating Results		
Amortization	1,523	752
Valuation Adjustments	(483)	(6,307)
	(162,122)	(147,451)
Decrease (Increase) in Accounts Receivable	2,026	(16,204)
Decrease in Advances	4	6
Increase (Decrease) in Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	(7,351)	13,255
Increase (Decrease) in Unearned Revenue	(49)	92
Cash Applied to Operating Transactions	(167,492)	(150,302)
Capital Transactions		
Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets	(3,020)	(3,105)
Cash Applied to Capital Transactions	(3,020)	(3,105)
Financing Transactions		
Net Transfer from General Revenues	182,572	149,156
(Decrease) Increase in Cash	12,060	(4,251)
Cash, Beginning of Year	8,851	13,102
Cash, End of Year	$ 20,911	$ 8,851

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Year Ended March 31, 2005

NOTE 1

The Ministry of Justice operates under the authority of the *Government Organization Act*, Chapter G-10, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000. The Department of Justice is the sole entity for which the Minister of Justice has been designated as responsible for various acts by the *Government Organization Act* and its regulations.

The Ministry's purpose is to serve Albertans by promoting safe communities, by ensuring access to the courts and other methods of dispute resolution, by providing legal and related strategic services to the Government of Alberta, and by communicating with Albertans about the administration of justice.

NOTE 2

The recommendations of the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants are the primary source for the disclosed basis of accounting. These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the following accounting policies that have been established by government for all departments.

(a) Reporting Entity

The reporting entity is the Ministry of Justice, which consists of the Department of Justice for which the Minister of Justice is accountable. These financial statements include the activities of the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims program (a statutory appropriation).

All departments of the Government of Alberta operate within the General Revenue Fund (the Fund). The Fund is administered by the Minister of Finance. All cash receipts of departments are deposited into the Fund and all cash disbursements made by departments are paid from the Fund. Net transfer from General Revenues is the difference between all cash receipts and all cash disbursements made.

(b) Basis of Financial Reporting

All revenues are reported on the accrual method of accounting except for payments on Motor Vehicle Accident Claims judgment debts, which are recorded when received. Cash received for which goods or services have not been provided by year-end is recorded as unearned revenue.

NOTE 2

(continued)

Dedicated revenue initiatives provide a basis for authorizing spending. Dedicated revenues must be shown as credits or recoveries in the details of the Government Estimates for a supply vote. If actual dedicated revenues are less than budget and total voted expenses are not reduced by an amount sufficient to cover the deficiency in dedicated revenues, the following year's voted expenses are encumbered. If actual dedicated revenues exceed budget, the Department may, with the approval of the Treasury Board, use the excess revenue to fund additional expenses on the program. Schedule 2 discloses information on the Department's dedicated revenue initiatives.

Directly Incurred

Directly incurred expenses are those costs the Ministry has primary responsibility and accountability for, as reflected in the Government's budget documents.

In addition to program operating expenses like salaries, supplies, etc., directly incurred expenses also include:

- amortization of tangible capital assets.
- pension costs, which comprise the cost of employer contributions for current service of employees during the year.
- valuation adjustments, which include changes in the valuation allowances used to reflect financial assets at their net recoverable or other appropriate value. Valuation adjustments also represent the change in management's estimate of future payments arising from obligations relating to vacation pay, guarantees and indemnities.

Incurred by Others

Services contributed by other entities in support of the Ministry's operations are disclosed in Schedule 8.

Financial assets of the Ministry are limited to financial claims, such as advances to and receivables from other organizations, employees and other individuals.

Assets acquired by right are not included. Tangible capital assets of the Ministry are recorded at historical cost and amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The threshold for capitalizing new systems development is $100,000 and the threshold for all other tangible capital assets is $5,000 (2004 - $15,000).

NOTE 2

(continued)

Liabilities represent all financial claims payable by the Ministry at fiscal year end.

Net liabilities represent the difference between the carrying value of assets held by the Ministry and its liabilities.

(in thousands)

Measurement uncertainty exists when there is a significant variance between the amount recognized in the financial statements and another reasonably possible amount.

Accounts receivable, recorded as $61,369 in these financial statements, is subject to measurement uncertainty. Accounts receivable excludes certain outstanding federal statute and provincial statute fines that are expected to be satisfied by means other than cash payment. The other means include participation in the fine option program or time served in a correctional institution at the option of the person owing the fine. Outstanding fines expected to be satisfied by other means of $6,276 (2004 - $5,428) have been deducted from total outstanding fines. The estimate of $61,369 is based on the actual percentage satisfied in this manner from April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005. Changes in the proportion of fines satisfied by other means may have a material effect on future operating results.

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities, recorded as $109,969 in these financial statements, is subject to measurement uncertainty. Accrued liabilities includes an estimate of $70,449 (2004 - $71,817) for unsettled claims under the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims program based on a calculated settlement value per claim. Changes to the settlement value may have a material effect on future operating results.

Fair value is the amount of consideration agreed upon in an arm's length transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties who are under no compulsion to act.

The fair values of cash, accounts receivable, advances, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities are estimated to approximate their carrying values because of the short term nature of these instruments.

NOTE 3

(in thousands)

	2005			2004
	Gross Amount	Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	Net Realizable Value	Net Realizable Value
Government of Canada	$ 4,856	$ -	$ 4,856	$ 11,673
Fines - Provincial	14,538	653	13,885	13,642
Fines - Federal	17,333	4,071	13,262	12,109
Ticket Processing	10,443	257	10,186	7,478
Fine Late Payment Penalty	15,242	735	14,507	12,871
Other	5,773	1,100	4,673	4,973
	$ 68,185	$ 6,816	$ 61,369	$ 62,746

Accounts receivable are unsecured and non-interest bearing.

NOTE 4

(in thousands)

		2005			2004
	Estimated Useful Life	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Equipment	10 years	$ 4,826	$ 2,855	$ 1,971	$ 837
Computer Hardware and Software	5-10 years	16,668	7,478	9,190	8,827
Total		$ 21,494	$ 10,333	$ 11,161	$ 9,664

NOTE 5

(in thousands)

The Ministry's total of actual voted operating expense and equipment/inventory purchases (OP/EIP) exceeded the authorized budget by $71 for the year ended March 31, 2004. As required by the *Financial Administration Act*, this amount was charged against the voted appropriation for the year ending March 31, 2005. See Schedule 5 to the financial statements.

NOTE 6

(in thousands)

As at March 31, 2005, the Ministry is committed under contracts, which expire on various dates to 2007, totaling $5,607 (2004 - $7,974).

The Ministry leases vehicles and equipment under operating leases that expire on various dates to 2009. The aggregate amounts payable for the unexpired terms of these leases are as follows:

Year		
2006	$	196
2007		61
2008		22
2009		1
Total	$	280

NOTE 7

(in thousands)

At March 31, 2005, the Ministry is a defendant in thirty three legal claims (2004 - thirty eight legal claims). Twenty eight of these claims have specified amounts totaling $239,090 and the remaining five have no specified amount (2004 - thirty two claims with a specified amount of $1,144,898 and six with no specified amount). Included in the total legal claims are three claims amounting to $8,320 (2004 - two claims amounting to $600) in which the Ministry has been jointly named with other entities. Twenty three claims amounting to $234,052 (2004 - nineteen claims totaling $110,660) are covered by the Alberta Risk Management Fund.

The resulting loss, if any, from these claims cannot be determined.

Within the provision of the *Public Trustee Act* the Office of the Public Trustee remits unclaimed estate monies, which is reported as general revenue of the Department. If entitled beneficiaries are subsequently located, previously unclaimed estate monies are returned to the Office of the Public Trustee for distribution to the beneficiaries.

NOTE 8

(in thousands)

The Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Program is a publicly administered program that pays for judgments arising from motor vehicle accidents involving uninsured or unidentified vehicles in Alberta. The program operates under the authority of the *Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Act*. At March 31, 2005, there were two thousand and six (2004 - two thousand two hundred and thirty eight) unsettled motor vehicle accident claims under this program amounting to $262,100 (2004 - $287,778). Of the unsettled claims, it was estimated that approximately $70,449 (2004 - $71,817) may arise from court ordered judgments and has been recorded as a liability.

The *Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Act* states that in order for claimants involved in motor vehicle accidents with uninsured or unidentified vehicles to be entitled to compensation, the Minister of Justice must receive a court judgment. In accordance with the Act, liabilities for personal injury claims are accrued when a court ordered judgment is received. Liabilities for motor vehicle accident claims amounting to $253 at March 31, 2005 (2004 - $730) are included in the total claim expenditures of $26,186 (2004 - $25,721).

The estimated liability for supplementary medical and rehabilitation expenses on approved applications filed up to March 31, 2005, is $6,637 (2004 - $6,465) and has been recorded as a liability. As at March 31, 2005, the maximum amount that may be payable to or on behalf of entitled applicants pursuant to the limits set in Section 17 of the *Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Act* was approximately $19,924 (2004 - $22,311).

NOTE 9

(in thousands)

The Ministry administers trust funds that are regulated funds consisting of public money over which the Legislature has no power of appropriation. Because the Province has no equity in the funds and administers them for the purpose of various trusts, they are not included in the Ministry's financial statements.

As at March 31, 2005, the amount of trust assets under administration net of trust liabilities was as follows:

	2005	Restated 2004
Public Trustee – Trust Funds (a)	$ 423,642	$ 417,249
Various Court Offices (c)	61,718	45,910
Maintenance Enforcement (d)	5,952	5,206
Solicitors Trust	172	197
	491,484	468,562
Public Trustee – Other Estate Assets (b)	58,242	57,594
	$ 549,726	$ 526,156

The Office of the Public Trustee administers the estates of decedents, dependent adults and minors. Trust fund receipts and income adjustments exceeded trust fund disbursements in 2004-2005 by $6,393 (2004 - $2,455). The major sources of receipts and income include pensions and similar receipts; investment income; and acquisition and sale of client estates. Significant disbursements include beneficiary distributions; client care and maintenance payments; release of client assets; and fees and taxes paid on behalf of clients.

In addition, the Office of the Public Trustee administers other estate assets consisting of client owned securities and investments, real estate holdings, accounts receivable, and personal property and other assets totaling $72,524 as at March 31, 2005, (2004 restated - $67,039). These assets are valued at fair value at the date the office obtains custody or nominal value when fair value is not readily determinable. Client liabilities as at March 31, 2005, of $14,282 (2004 restated - $9,445), are comprised of accounts, mortgages and notes payable, and are recorded at nominal value where actual value is not readily determinable. Other estate assets of $58,242 (2004 restated - $57,594) are not included in the Ministry's financial statements.

The Court Offices receive and disburse payments for fines, bail and other payments involving civil litigants. Total Court trust receipts exceeded total trust fund disbursements in 2004-2005 by $15,808 (2004 – $6,959).

The Maintenance Enforcement Program receives and disburses court ordered maintenance and child support. Total trust receipts exceeded total trust fund disbursements in 2004-2005 by $746 (2004 - $1,270).

NOTE 10

(in thousands)

The Ministry has entered into agreements to deliver programs and services that are fully funded by the Government of Canada and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Costs incurred under these agreements are made by the Ministry under the authority of the *Financial Administration Act*, Section 25. Accounts receivable includes $118 (2004 - $49) from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and $40 (2004 - $98) from the Government of Canada.

Agreements with the Government of Canada for 2003-2004 were for ongoing system changes to Government of Alberta systems to comply with new federal youth justice legislation that came into effect April 1, 2003. The 2004-2005 agreement is with Justice Canada for victims awareness training.

Agreement with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is for cost recovery on toxicology casework done by the Medical Examiners Office.

Amounts paid under agreements with program sponsors are as follows:

	2005	2004
Government of Canada – *Youth Criminal Justice Act*	$ -	$ 133
Government of Canada – Victims Awareness Training	40	-
Royal Canadian Mounted Police – Toxicology Casework	135	148
	$ 175	$ 281

NOTE 11

(in thousands)

The Ministry participates in the multi-employer pension plans, Management Employees Pension Plan and Public Service Pension Plan. The Ministry also participates in the multi-employer Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers. The expense for these pension plans is equivalent to the annual contributions of $10,700 for the year ended March 31, 2005 (2004 - $8,669).

At December 31, 2004, the Management Employees Pension Plan reported a deficiency of $268,101 (2003 - $290,014) and the Public Service Pension Plan reported a deficiency of $450,068 (2003 - $584,213). At December 31, 2004, the Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers had an actuarial surplus of $9,404 (2003 - $9,312).

The Ministry participates in the Provincial Judges and Masters in Chambers Pension Plan. The expenses for this pension plan are $8,559 for the year ended March 31, 2005 (2004 - $5,196).

The Ministry also participates in two multi-employer Long Term Disability Income Continuance Plans. At March 31, 2005, the Bargaining Unit Plan reported an actuarial deficiency of $11,817 (2004 - $9,766) and the Management, Opted Out and Excluded Plan an actuarial surplus of $3,208 (2004 - $1,298). The expense for these two plans is limited to employer's annual contributions for the year.

NOTE 12

Certain 2004 figures have been reclassified to conform to the 2005 presentation.

NOTE 13

The financial statements were approved by the Senior Financial Officer and the Deputy Minister of Justice.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE - SCHEDULE 1

Schedule to Financial Statements

Revenues

Year Ended March 31, 2005

(in thousands)

	2005 Budget	2005 Actual	2004 Actual
Transfer from the Government of Canada			
Legal Aid	$ 11,413	$ 11,986	$ 9,784
Other	2,227	2,738	2,399
	13,640	14,724	12,183
Investment Income – Bank Interest	325	596	578
Fees, Permits and Licences			
Court Fees	16,950	15,238	15,710
Motor Vehicle Accident Claims (MVAC)	14,000	15,427	14,614
Public Trustee Fees	3,662	5,023	7,813
Other	550	532	504
	35,162	36,220	38,641
Other Revenue			
Fines	38,000	40,747	38,441
Maintenance Enforcement Program	8,500	7,435	6,658
Fines – Late Payment Penalty	12,000	13,133	12,517
MVAC Recoveries	3,400	4,644	3,891
Refunds of Expenditure	15	414	316
Miscellaneous	2,587	2,242	2,222
	64,502	68,615	64,045
	$ 113,629	$ 120,155	$ 115,447

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE - SCHEDULE 2
Schedule to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2005

(in thousands)

	2005		
	Authorized Dedicated Revenues	Actual Dedicated Revenues	(Shortfall) / Excess
Ticket Processing	$ 21,000	$ 20,491	$ (509)
Provincial Civil Claims	2,300	962	(1,338)
Maintenance Enforcement	1,441	-	(1,441)
	$ 24,741	$ 21,453 (1)	$ (3,288)

(1) Shortfall is deducted from current year's authorized budget, as disclosed in Schedules 4 and 5 to the financial statements.

Ticket Processing revenues represent the Province's share of tickets designated towards all expenditures in Court Services, Criminal Justice and Strategic Services incurred in the processing and handling of violation tickets.

Provincial Civil Claims revenues represent amounts received from the public for filing civil claims in excess of seven thousand five hundred dollars in Provincial Court. These revenues are dedicated towards the costs of processing these claims.

Maintenance Enforcement revenues represent deterrent penalties and service fees to promote timely payment of maintenance to improve and expand services available for clients.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE - SCHEDULE 3

Schedule to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2005

(in thousands)

	2005 Budget	2005 Actual	2004 Actual
Voted			
Salaries, Wages and Employee Benefits (a)	$ 173,976	$ 173,752	$ 157,391
Supplies and Services (a)	46,021	49,419	50,144
Grants	32,571	32,637	29,339
Financial Transactions and Other	250	283	303
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	2,427	1,523	752
Total Voted Expenses	$ 255,245	$ 257,614	$ 237,929
Statutory			
Other	$ 26,944	$ 26,186	$ 25,721

(a) Salaries, wages and employee benefits and supplies and services expenses for Strategic Services programs are shared with the Ministry of the Solicitor General, which contributes its own share of expenses. Only the Ministry of Justice portion is disclosed in this Schedule.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE - SCHEDULE 4

Schedule to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2005

(in thousands)

	2004-2005 Estimates	Adjustment (b)	2004-2005 Budget	Voted Supplementary (c)	Treasury Board Authorization (a)	2004-2005 Authorized Budget
Revenues:						
Transfer from the Government of Canada	$ 13,640	$ -	$ 13,640	$ -	$ -	$ 13,640
Investment Income	325	-	325	-	-	325
Fees, Permits and Licences	35,162	-	35,162	-	-	35,162
Other Revenue	64,502	-	64,502	-	2,000	66,502
	113,629	-	113,629	-	2,000	115,629
Expenses – Directly Incurred:						
Voted:						
Ministry Support Services	14,656	-	14,656	-	-	14,656
Court Services	117,413	-	117,413	8,016	2,000	127,429
Legal Services	77,081	-	77,081	787	-	77,868
Support for Legal Aid	31,898	-	31,898	-	-	31,898
Public Trustee	8,979	-	8,979	190	-	9,169
Medical Examiner	5,218	-	5,218	-	-	5,218
Prior Year Encumbrance	-	(71)	(71)	-	-	(71)
Dedicated Revenue Shortfall	-	(3,288)	(3,288)	-	-	(3,288)
	255,245	(3,359)	251,886	8,993	2,000	262,879
Statutory:						
Motor Vehicle Accident Claims	26,944	-	26,944	-	-	26,944
Valuation Adjustments						
Provision for Doubtful Accounts	200	-	200	-	-	200
Provision for Vacation Pay	533	-	533	-	243	776
	27,677	-	27,677	-	243	27,920
Total Expenses	282,922	(3,359)	279,563	8,993	2,243	290,799
Net Operating Results	$ (169,293)	$ 3,359	$ (165,934)	$ (8,993)	$ (243)	$ (175,170)
Equipment/Inventory Purchases	$ 1,400	$ -	$ 1,400	$ -	$ -	$ 1,400

(a) Includes an increase of $2,000 as a result of an approved increase in expense and dedicated revenue pursuant to the *Financial Administration Act*, section 24 (2).

(b) Adjustment made for shortfall of dedicated revenue initiatives of $3,288 (Schedule 2) and an encumbrance of $71 due to an over expenditure of authorized budget in 2003-2004.

(c) Supplementary Estimates were approved on March 24, 2005.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE - SCHEDULE 5

Schedule to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2005

(in thousands)

MINISTRY SUMMARY

Program		2004-2005 Estimates	Adjustments (a)	2004-2005 Budget	Authorized Supplementary (b)	Treasury Board Authorized (c)	2004-2005 Authorized Budget	2004-2005 Actual (d)	Unexpended (Over Expended)
1	Ministry Support Services	$ 14,656	$ -	$ 14,656	$ -	$ -	$ 14,656	$ 13,866	$ 790
2	Court Services	117,413	-	117,413	8,016	2,000	127,429	123,946	3,483
3	Legal Services	78,481	-	78,481	787	-	79,268	75,532	3,736
4	Support for Legal Aid	31,898	-	31,898	-	-	31,898	31,898	-
5	Public Trustee	8,979	-	8,979	190	-	9,169	9,110	59
6	Medical Examiner	5,218	-	5,218	-	-	5,218	6,269	(1,051)
	Prior Year Encumbrance	-	(71)	(71)	-	-	(71)	-	(71)
	Dedicated Revenue Shortfall	-	(3,288)	(3,288)	-	-	(3,288)	-	(3,288)
		$ 256,645	$ (3,359)	$ 253,286	$ 8,993	$ 2,000	$ 264,279	$ 260,621	$ 3,658
	STATUTORY EXPENSES								
	Motor Vehicle Accident Claims	$ 26,944	$ -	$ 26,944	$ -	$ -	$ 26,944	$ 26,186	$ 758
	Valuation Adjustments	733	-	733	-	243	976	(483)	1,459
		$ 27,677	$ -	$ 27,677	$ -	$ 243	$ 27,920	$ 25,703	$ 2,217

(a) Adjustment made for shortfall of dedicated revenue initiatives of $3,288 (Schedule 2) and an encumbrance of $71 due to an over expenditure of authorized budget in 2003-2004.

(b) Supplementary Estimates were approved on March 24, 2005.

(c) Includes an increase of $2,000 as a result of an approved increase in expense and dedicated revenue pursuant to the *Financial Administration Act*, section 24 (2).

(d) Includes achievement bonus amounting to $3,486.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE - SCHEDULE 5 (continued)

Schedule to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2005

(in thousands)

PROGRAM 1 – MINISTRY SUPPORT SERVICES

	Program	2004-2005 Estimates	Adjustments (b)	2004-2005 Budget	Authorized Supplementary (c)	Treasury Board Authorized (a)	2004-2005 Authorized Budget	2004-2005 Actual (d)	Unexpended (Over Expended)
1.0.1	Minister's Office	$ 429	$ -	$ 429	$ -	$ -	$ 429	$ 497	$ (68)
1.0.2	Deputy Minister's Office	443	-	443	-	-	443	473	(30)
1.0.3	Communications	361	-	361	-	-	361	333	28
1.0.4	Strategic Services	7,962	-	7,962	-	-	7,962	8,018	(56)
1.0.5	Human Resources								
	Operating Expenses	1,501	-	1,501	-	-	1,501	1,781	(280)
	Equipment/Inventory Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	(7)
1.0.6	Management Information Services	2,878	-	2,878	-	-	2,878	1,846	1,032
1.0.7	Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	624	-	624	-	-	624	487	137
1.0.8	Standing Policy Committee on Justice and Government Services	98	-	98	-	-	98	88	10
1.0.9	Policy Secretariat	360	-	360	-	-	360	336	24
TOTAL PROGRAM		$ 14,656	$ -	$ 14,656	$ -	$ -	$ 14,656	$ 13,866	$ 790

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE - SCHEDULE 5 (continued)

Schedule to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2005

(in thousands)

PROGRAM 2 – COURT SERVICES

	Program	2004-2005 Estimates	Adjustments (b)	2004-2005 Budget	Authorized Supplementary (c)	Treasury Board Authorized (a)	2004-2005 Authorized Budget	2004-2005 Actual (d)	Unexpended (Over Expended)
2.1	**Program Support**								
2.1.1	Program Support Services								
	Operating Expenses	$ 6,956	$ -	$ 6,956	$ 1,500	$ -	$ 8,456	$ 9,201	$ (745)
	Equipment/Inventory Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	(54)
2.1.2	Chief Provincial Judge's Office	1,645	-	1,645	581	-	2,226	2,813	(587)
2.1.3	Law Libraries	3,590	-	3,590	-	-	3,590	3,844	(254)
2.1.4	Ticket Processing								
	Operating Expenses	19,000	-	19,000	-	2,000	21,000	19,619	1,381
	Equipment/Inventory Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-	758	(758)
2.1.5	Provincial Civil Claims	2,300	-	2,300	-	-	2,300	1,324	976
2.1.6	Child Centred Family Justice	1,363	-	1,363	-	-	1,363	1,302	61
2.1.7	Aboriginal Court Worker Program	3,234	-	3,234	-	-	3,234	3,229	5
2.1.8	Amortization of Capital Assets	480	-	480	-	-	480	197	283
	Total Sub-program	38,568	-	38,568	2,081	2,000	42,649	42,341	308
2.2	**Calgary Court Operations**								
2.2.1	Calgary Court of Queen's Bench	7,164	-	7,164	177	-	7,341	7,287	54
2.2.2	Calgary Provincial Courts								
	Operating Expenses	16,043	-	16,043	1,999	-	18,042	17,313	729
	Equipment/Inventory Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	(15)
2.2.3	Calgary Family Mediation Services	838	-	838	49	-	887	841	46
2.2.4	Calgary Operations Support								
	Operating Expenses	1,620	-	1,620	-	-	1,620	1,802	(182)
	Equipment/Inventory Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	(41)
	Total Sub-program	25,665	-	25,665	2,225	-	27,890	27,299	591
2.3	**Edmonton Court Operations**								
2.3.1	Edmonton Court of Queen's Bench	8,161	-	8,161	133	-	8,294	8,089	205
2.3.2	Edmonton Provincial Courts	15,212	-	15,212	1,660	-	16,872	15,953	919
2.3.3	Edmonton Family Mediation Services	1,250	-	1,250	44	-	1,294	1,185	109
2.3.4	Edmonton Operations Support								
	Operating Expenses	1,972	-	1,972	-	-	1,972	2,096	(124)
	Equipment/Inventory Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-	159	(159)
	Total Sub-program	26,595	-	26,595	1,837	-	28,432	27,482	950

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE - SCHEDULE 5 (continued)

Schedule to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2005

(in thousands)

PROGRAM 2 – COURT SERVICES (continued)

	Program	2004-2005 Estimates	Adjustments (b)	2004-2005 Budget	Authorized Supplementary (c)	Treasury Board Authorized (a)	2004-2005 Authorized Budget	2004-2005 Actual (d)	Unexpended (Over Expended)
2.4	**Regional Court Operations**								
2.4.1	Lethbridge Courts	$ 3,743	$ -	$ 3,743	$ 309	$ -	$ 4,052	$ 3,728	$ 324
2.4.2	Red Deer Courts	3,157	-	3,157	221	-	3,378	3,140	238
2.4.3	Grande Prairie Courts	1,378	-	1,378	88	-	1,466	1,359	107
2.4.4	Peace River Courts	1,030	-	1,030	88	-	1,118	980	138
2.4.5	Wetaskiwin Courts	1,049	-	1,049	44	-	1,093	1,086	7
2.4.6	Fort McMurray Courts	732	-	732	44	-	776	715	61
2.4.7	St. Paul Courts	1,626	-	1,626	132	-	1,758	1,836	(78)
2.4.8	Drumheller Courts	359	-	359	-	-	359	392	(33)
2.4.9	Medicine Hat Courts	1,242	-	1,242	215	-	1,457	1,326	131
	Regional Provincial Courts	6,864	-	6,864	693	-	7,557	7,060	497
	Regional Family Mediation Services	899	-	899	39	-	938	636	302
	Regional Operations Support	1,152	-	1,152	-	-	1,152	1,210	(58)
	Total Sub-program	23,231	-	23,231	1,873	-	25,104	23,468	1,636
2.5	**Court of Appeal**								
2.5.1	Court of Appeal	3,354	-	3,354	-	-	3,354	3,356	(2)
	Total Sub-program	3,354	-	3,354	-	-	3,354	3,356	(2)
TOTAL PROGRAM		$ 117,413	$ -	$ 117,413	$ 8,016	$ 2,000	$ 127,429	$ 123,946	$ 3,483

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE - SCHEDULE 5 (continued)

Schedule to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2005

(in thousands)

PROGRAM 3 – LEGAL SERVICES

	Program	2004-2005 Estimates	Adjustments (b)	2004-2005 Budget	Authorized Supplementary (c)	Treasury Board Authorized (a)	2004-2005 Authorized Budget	2004-2005 Actual (d)	Unexpended (Over Expended)
3.0.1	Law Reform	$ 320	$ -	$ 320	$ -	$ -	$ 320	$ 370	$ (50)
3.0.2	Legislative Counsel	1,812	-	1,812	-	-	1,812	1,870	(58)
3.0.3	Civil Law								
	Operating Expenses	21,194	-	21,194	691	-	21,885	19,495	2,390
	Equipment/Inventory Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	(54)
3.0.4	Criminal Justice								
	Operating Expenses	40,575	-	40,575	96	-	40,671	40,356	315
	Equipment/Inventory Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	(18)
3.0.5	Maintenance Enforcement								
	Operating Expenses	11,923	-	11,923	-	-	11,923	11,305	618
	Equipment/Inventory Purchases	1,400	-	1,400	-	-	1,400	1,396	4
3.0.6	Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	1,257	-	1,257	-	-	1,257	668	589
TOTAL PROGRAM		$ 78,481	$ -	$ 78,481	$ 787	$ -	$ 79,268	$ 75,532	$ 3,736

(in thousands)

PROGRAM 4 – SUPPORT FOR LEGAL AID

	Program	2004-2005 Estimates	Adjustments (b)	2004-2005 Budget	Authorized Supplementary (c)	Treasury Board Authorized (a)	2004-2005 Authorized Budget	2004-2005 Actual (d)	Unexpended (Over Expended)
4.0.1	Legal Aid Plan	$ 31,898	$ -	$ 31,898	$ -	$ -	$ 31,898	$ 31,898	$ -

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE - SCHEDULE 5 (continued)

Schedule to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2005

(in thousands)

PROGRAM 5 - PUBLIC TRUSTEE

Program	2004-2005 Estimates	Adjustments (b)	2004-2005 Budget	Authorized Supplementary (c)	Treasury Board Authorized (a)	2004-2005 Authorized Budget	2004-2005 Actual (d)	Unexpended (Over Expended)
5.0.1 Public Trustee								
Operating Expenses	$ 8,979	$ -	$ 8,979	$ 190	$ -	$ 9,169	$ 9,110	$ 59
Equipment/Inventory Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL PROGRAM	$ 8,979	$ -	$ 8,979	$ 190	$ -	$ 9,169	$ 9,110	$ 59

(in thousands)

PROGRAM 6 - MEDICAL EXAMINER

Program	2004-2005 Estimates	Adjustments (b)	2004-2005 Budget	Authorized Supplementary (c)	Treasury Board Authorized (a)	2004-2005 Authorized Budget	2004-2005 Actual (d)	Unexpended (Over Expended)
6.0.1 Medical Examiner								
Operating Expenses	$ 5,152	$ -	$ 5,152	$ -	$ -	$ 5,152	$ 5,597	$ (445)
Equipment/Inventory Purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-	505	(505)
6.0.2 Amortization of Tangible Capital ssets	66	-	66	-	-	66	167	(101)
TOTAL PROGRAM	$ 5,218	$ -	$ 5,218	$ -	$ -	$ 5,218	$ 6,269	$ (1,051)

(in thousands)

STATUTORY PROGRAMS

Appropriation not voted by the Legislative Assembly
pursuant to the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Act

	2004-2005 Estimates	Adjustments (b)	2004-2005 Budget	Authorized Supplementary (c)	Treasury Board Authorized (a)	2004-2005 Authorized Budget	2004-2005 Actual (d)	Unexpended (Over Expended)
Motor Vehicle Accident Claims	$ 26,944	$ -	$ 26,944	$ -	$ -	$ 26,944	$ 26,186	$ 758
Valuation Adjustments	733	-	733	-	243	976	(483)	1,459
	$ 27,677	$ -	$ 27,677	$ -	$ 243	$ 27,920	$ 25,703	$ 2,217

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE - SCHEDULE 6

Schedule to Financial Statements

Salary and Benefits Disclosure

Year Ended March 31, 2005

	2005				2004
	Base Salary[1]	Other Cash Benefits[2]	Other Non Cash Benefits[3]	Total	Total
Deputy Minister (4)	$ 182,940	$ 35,856	$ 36,859	$ 255,655	$ 262,005
Assistant Deputy Minister, Legal Services	145,440	21,380	29,198	196,018	194,970
Assistant Deputy Minister, Court Services	131,269	19,436	25,681	176,386	160,743
Assistant Deputy Minister, Criminal Justice	145,440	21,380	29,614	196,434	195,476
Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Services [5]	142,132	21,380	27,185	190,697	175,641
Executive Director, Human Resources [5]	118,826	19,436	23,987	162,249	146,025

Prepared in accordance with Treasury Board Directive 03/2004

Total salary and benefits relating to a position are disclosed.

(1) Base salary includes regular base pay.

(2) Other cash benefits includes bonuses, vacation payouts, overtime and lump sum payments.

(3) Other non-cash benefits include the government's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees including pension, health care, dental coverage, group life insurance, short and long term disability plans, professional memberships and tuition fees.

(4) Automobile provided, no dollar amount included in benefits and allowances.

(5) The incumbents' services are shared with the Ministry of the Solicitor General, which contributes its own share of the cost of salary and benefits. Full salary and benefits are disclosed in this Schedule.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE - SCHEDULE 7

Schedule to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2005

(in thousands)

Related parties are those entities consolidated or accounted for on a modified equity basis in the Province of Alberta's financial statements. Related parties also include management in the Ministry.

The Ministry and its employees paid or collected certain taxes and fees set by regulation for permits, licences and other charges. These amounts were incurred in the normal course of business, reflect charges applicable to all users, and have been excluded from this Schedule.

The Ministry had the following transactions with related parties recorded on the Statement of Operations and the Statement of Financial Position at the amount of consideration agreed upon between the related parties:

	Other Entities	
	2005	2004
Expenses – Directly Incurred		
Alberta Corporate Service Centre	$ 11,448	$ 10,911
Information Technology	677	738
Office of the Chief Internal Auditor	49	-
Vehicles (EVO/CVO)	17	17
Air Transportation	-	15
Parking	1	4
	$ 12,192	$ 11,685

The Ministry also had the following transactions with related parties for which no consideration was exchanged. The amounts for these related party transactions are estimated based on the costs incurred by the service provider to provide the service. These amounts are not recorded in the financial statements.

	Other Entities		Entities in the Ministry	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
Revenues				
Legal Services	$16,278	$16,047	$4,291	$3,626
	$16,278	$16,047	$4,291	$3,626
Expenses – Indirectly Incurred				
Accommodation	$37,542	$33,921	$ -	$ -
Legal Services	-	-	4,291	3,626
Other Services	7	-	-	-
	$37,549	$33,921	$4,291	$3,626

The Ministry receives services under contracts managed by the Ministry of Restructuring and Government Efficiency, Alberta Corporate Service Centre (ACSC). Any commitments under these contracts are reported by ACSC.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE - SCHEDULE 8

Schedule to Financial Statements

Allocated Costs

Year Ended March 31, 2005

(in thousands)

	2005						2004
		Expenses – Incurred by Others		Valuation Adjustments (4)			
Program	Expenses (1)	Accommodation Costs (2)	Legal Services (3)	Vacation Pay	Doubtful Accounts	Total Expenses	Total Expenses
Voted:							
Ministry Support Services	$ 13,859	$ 750	$ 2,092	$ 70	$ -	$ 16,771	$ 14,390
Court Services	122,919	30,768	216	853	(1,065)	153,691	143,247
Legal Services	74,064	3,661	(3,459)	511	-	74,777	71,079
Support for Legal Aid	31,898	101	-	-	-	31,999	28,839
Public Trustee	9,110	1,102	222	30	-	10,464	10,150
Medical Examiner	5,764	1,047	260	(108)	-	6,963	6,453
	257,614	37,429	(669)	1,356	(1,065)	294,665	274,158
Statutory:							
Motor Vehicle Accident Claims	26,186	113	669	5	416	27,389	26,994
	$ 283,800	$ 37,542	$ -	$ 1,361	$ (649)	$ 322,054	$ 301,152

(1) Expenses-Directly Incurred as per Statement of Operations, excluding valuation adjustments. ($283,317 plus [649 + 1,195 – 1,361] = 283,800)

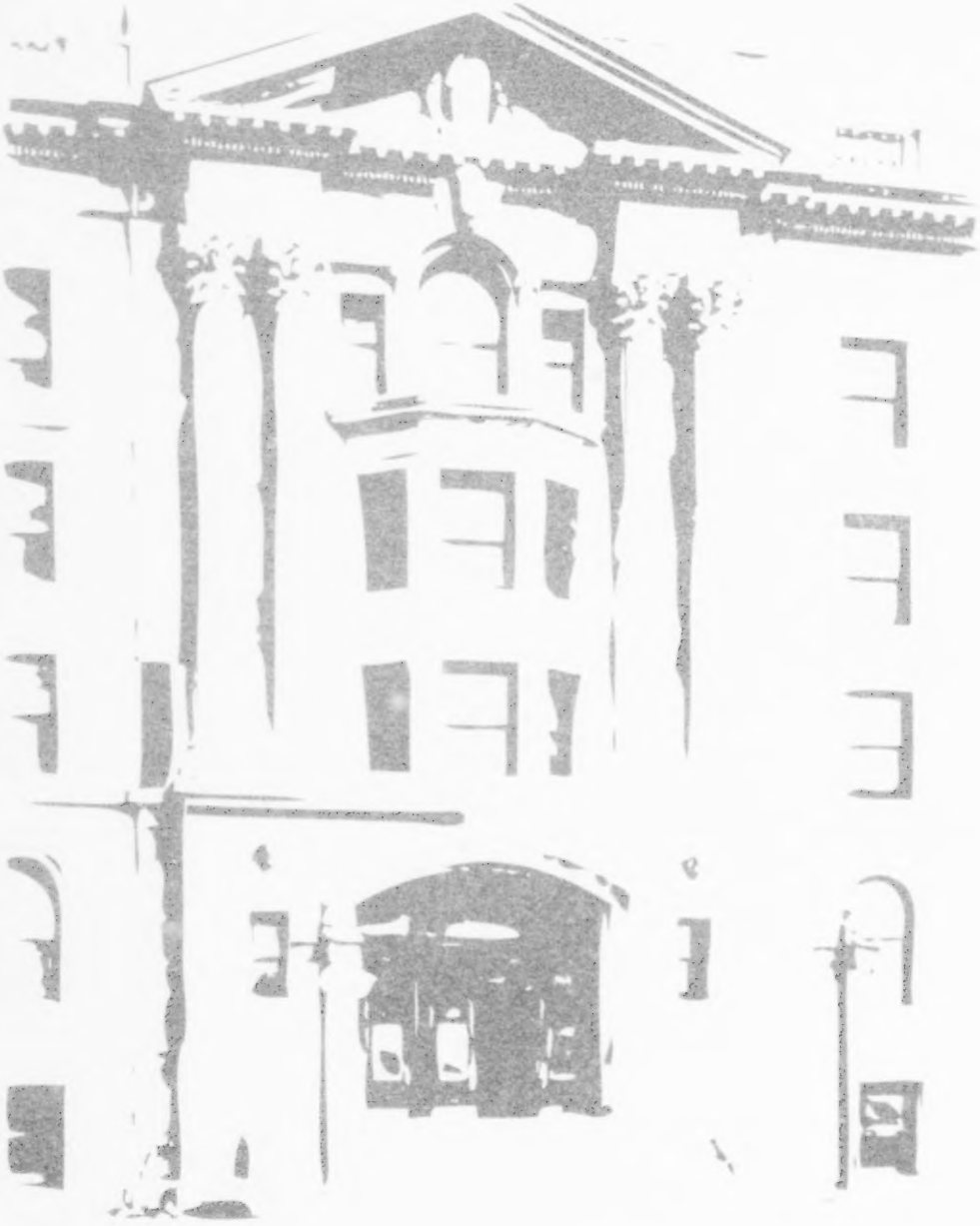
(2) Costs for Accommodation (includes grants in lieu of taxes) on Schedule 7, allocated by square footage.

(3) Cost shown for Legal Services on Schedule 7, estimated costs incurred by each program.

(4) Valuation Adjustments as per Statement of Operations. Employee Benefits and Doubtful Accounts were allocated as follows:

- Vacation Pay – allocated to the program by employee,
- Doubtful Accounts Provision – estimated allocation to program.

The following information is unaudited



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Statement of Remissions, Compromises and Write-offs for the Year Ended March 31, 2005

The following statement of compromises and write-offs has been prepared pursuant to Section 23 of the *Financial Administration Act*. The statement includes all compromises and write-offs of the Ministry of Justice made or approved during the fiscal year.

	$ (000)
Remissions:	$ -
Compromises:	
Motor Vehicle Accident Claims	$ 10
Maintenance Enforcement Program	41
	$ 51
Write-offs:	
Motor Vehicle Accident Claims	$ 1,270
Fines	2,853
Late Payment Penalties	627
Abandoned and Seized Vehicles	281
Maintenance Enforcement Program	698
	$ 5,729
Total Remissions, Compromises and Write-offs	$ 5,780

Civil Law Legal Services Delivery

Civil Law provides legal and related strategic services to all government ministries. Civil Law maintains a time keeping system to enable its lawyers, paralegals and articling students to record and report the hours of legal services provided in total to each Ministry and their respective programs. In 2004-05 160 lawyers, paralegals and articling students recorded in excess of 183 thousand hours of provided legal services and in 2003-04 150 such staff recorded more than 163 thousand hours. The total hours of service to each Ministry is used as the basis to allocate legal services costs.

The costing methodology to estimate the costs for providing legal services for allocation to all client ministries includes the total cost of Civil Law less expenditures on contracted services and grants to third parties. A proportionate amount for support services provided by Strategic Services and Human Resource Services is included in the estimate. The estimate includes accommodation costs for office space in government owned or leased buildings as paid by and reported by the Ministry of Infrastructure and as well the estimate also includes all or part of salary and benefit costs for lawyers paid directly by client ministries. The estimated costs are allocated to each department based on the hours of service received. Justice, as a service provider, sends the legal services cost information to each Ministry for disclosure in the Related Party Transactions Schedule and the Allocated Costs Schedule to the financial statements of each ministry's annual report.

The percentage of clients who were more than *satisfied* to *very satisfied* with the legal services provided was 90 percent in 2004-05 and 85 percent in 2003-04. This performance measure is fully described under Goal 6 in this annual report.

The table below summarizes the estimated cost of allocated legal services, the number of hours allocated, the average hourly cost and the client satisfaction rate.

Cost Estimates	2004/05	2003/04
Total Civil Law Costs	$19,494,744	$18,925,598
Deduct Contract Services & Grants	280,068	464,660
	$19,214,676	$18,460,938
Add Support Services	599,880	567,272
Accommodation	754,621	645,272
Client Cost for Lawyers	3,284,815	1,431,749
Total Legal Services Costs for Allocation	$23,853,992	$21,105,231
Number of Hours of Service Provided	183,825.8	163,318.1
Average Hourly Cost	$129.76	$129.23
Client Satisfaction Rate	90%	85%

Fine Activity and Violation Ticket Activity Information

A management information report summarizes fine activity by the recipients entitled to the fine or penalty. The municipalities receive specific provincial statute offence fines and all municipal bylaw fines for offences occurring within municipal boundaries. The majority of municipal fine activity occurs in cities, towns, counties and municipal districts. The Alberta government receives fines for provincial statute offences occurring on primary highways and other specific provincial statute offences. The Alberta government receives any late payment penalties on overdue fines and some fines under the *Criminal Code of Canada* and retains 16 2/3% of *Traffic Safety Act* fines. The Victims of Crime Fund, administered by the Alberta Solicitor General, receives a 15 per cent surcharge on all provincial statute fines and a surcharge on selective federal statute offences. These surcharge revenues are used to fund victims programs in Alberta. The federal government receives fines for federal statute offences and selective fines under the *Criminal Code*.

The tables below summarize fines imposed, fine payments and uncollectible fines for the twelve months from April 2004 to March 2005 and for the twelve months from April 2003 to March 2004, by the recipient level of government. The final two tables summarize outstanding fines at March 31, 2005 and March 31, 2004, by the recipient level of government.

Fines Imposed – April 2004 to March 2005

Recipient	Number of Fines Imposed	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Fines Imposed	Percent of Total Value
Municipalities	1,051,619	29.5%	$101,353,522	53.5%
Alberta Government	132,145	3.7%	27,660,722	14.6%
Victims of Crime Fund	981,929	27.6%	20,931,153	11.1%
Federal Government	1,570	0.0%	3,152,154	1.7%
Late Payment Penalty	458,043	12.9%	12,194,449	6.4%
Fine Retention	937,034	26.3%	24,116,099	12.7%
Total	3,562,340	100.0%	$189,408,099	100.0%

Fine Activity and Violation Ticket Activity Information

(continued)

Fines Imposed – April 2003 to March 2004 (Restated)

Recipient	Number of Fines Imposed	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Fines Imposed	Percent of Total Value
Municipalities	1,068,973	39.8%	$115,640,772	64.0%
Alberta Government	130,150	4.9%	31,178,381	17.3%
Victims of Crime Fund	1,004,939	37.5%	19,848,756	11.0%
Federal Government	1,614	0.1%	2,000,437	1.1%
Late Payment Penalty	474,460	17.7%	11,833,947	6.6%
Fine Retention	not available	not available	not available	not available
Total	2,680,136	100.0%	$180,502,293	100.0%

Fine Payments – April 2004 to March 2005

Recipient	Number of Fine Payments	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Fine Payments	Percent of Total Value
Municipalities	1,016,717	29.6%	$ 87,598,044	55.4%
Alberta Government	120,012	3.6%	20,269,555	12.8%
Victims of Crime Fund	947,432	27.6%	17,422,467	11.0%
Federal Government	1,516	0.0%	2,000,685	1.3%
Late Payment Penalty	459,842	13.4%	11,429,628	7.2%
Fine Retention	887,026	25.8%	19,529,259	12.3%
Total	3,432,545	100.0%	$158,249,638	100.0%

Fine Payments – April 2003 to March 2004 (Restated)

Recipient	Number of Fine Payments	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Fine Payments	Percent of Total Value
Municipalities	1,018,906	39.7%	$ 91,786,255	65.4%
Alberta Government	117,590	4.6%	21,253,403	15.2%
Victims of Crime Fund	958,209	37.4%	15,430,495	11.0%
Federal Government	1,991	0.1%	1,368,177	1.0%
Late Payment Penalty	465,096	18.2%	10,391,285	7.4%
Fine Retention	not available	not available	not available	not available
Total	2,561,792	100.0%	$140,229,615	100.0%

Uncollectible Fines – April 2004 to March 2005

Recipient	Number of Uncollectible Fines	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Uncollectible Fines	Percent of Total Value
Municipalities	30,257	40.9%	$ 3,586,184	49.2%
Alberta Government	9,803	13.2%	2,853,301	39.1%
Victims of Crime Fund	4,667	6.3%	191,979	2.6%
Federal Government	75	0.1%	33,111	0.5%
Late Payment Penalty	29,267	39.5%	626,710	8.6%
Fine Retention	not available	not available	not available	not available
Total	74,069	100.0%	$ 7,291,285	100.0%

Fine Activity and Violation Ticket Activity Information

(continued)

Uncollectible Fines – April 2003 to March 2004 (Restated)

Recipient	Number of Uncollectible Fines	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Uncollectible Fines	Percent of Total Value
Municipalities	27,284	38.3%	$ 3,430,239	44.2%
Alberta Government	12,838	18.0%	3,571,893	46.2%
Victims of Crime Fund	3,917	5.5%	159,097	2.1%
Federal Government	47	0.1%	5,406	0.1%
Late Payment Penalty	27,183	38.1%	570,443	7.4%
Fine Retention	not available	not available	not available	not available
Total	71,269	100.0%	$ 7,737,078	100.0%

Outstanding Fines – at March 31, 2005

Recipient	Number of Outstanding Fines	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Outstanding Fines	Percent of Total Value
Municipalities	529,592	33.8%	$ 72,989,270	50.7%
Alberta Government	118,410	7.6%	38,039,082	26.4%
Victims of Crime Fund	36,780	2.3%	2,300,667	1.6%
Federal Government	3,444	0.2%	5,579,898	3.9%
Late Payment Penalty	548,976	35.1%	14,143,502	9.8%
Fine Retention	329,055	21.0%	10,979,117	7.6%
Total	1,566,257	100.0%	$144,031,536	100.0%

Outstanding Fines – at March 31, 2004 (Restated)

Recipient	Number of Outstanding Fines	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Outstanding Fines	Percent of Total Value
Municipalities	502,235	42.8%	$ 75,249,280	56.6%
Alberta Government	113,246	9.6%	38,823,722	29.1%
Victims of Crime Fund	37,912	3.2%	2,302,836	1.7%
Federal Government	3,001	0.3%	4,430,730	3.3%
Late Payment Penalty	518,681	44.1%	12,440,146	9.3%
Fine Retention	not available	not available	not available	not available
Total	1,175,075	100.0%	$133,246,714	100.0%

Fine Activity and Violation Ticket Activity Information

A management information report summarizes violation ticket activity by the province of residence for a vehicle driver/owner receiving a ticket in Alberta. A significant portion of Provincial Court resources is directed towards the handling and processing of all violation tickets for provincial statute offences issued in Alberta. The values summarized in the tables are inclusive of the fine and the provincial fine surcharge.

The tables below summarize violation tickets fines imposed, fine payments and uncollectible fines for the twelve months from April 2004 to March 2005 and for the twelve months from April 2003 to March 2004, by province of offender. The final two tables summarize outstanding fines at March 31, 2005 and March 31, 2004.

Violation Ticket Fines Imposed – April 2004 to March 2005

Resident of	Number of Ticket Fines Imposed	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Ticket Fines Imposed	Percent of Total Value
Alberta	1,110,549	96.3%	$150,974,018	95.4%
British Columbia	17,046	1.5%	2,948,043	1.9%
Saskatchewan	12,664	1.1%	2,184,039	1.4%
All Other	12,191	1.1%	2,072,156	1.3%
Total	1,152,450	100.0%	$158,178,256	100.0%

Violation Ticket Fines Imposed – April 2003 to March 2004

Resident of	Number of Ticket Fines Imposed	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Ticket Fines Imposed	Percent of Total Value
Alberta	1,129,391	96.9%	$143,521,567	96.0%
British Columbia	15,684	1.3%	2,492,094	1.7%
Saskatchewan	10,434	0.9%	1,667,861	1.1%
All Other	10,792	0.9%	1,746,134	1.2%
Total	1,166,301	100.0%	$149,427,656	100.0%

Violation Tickets Paid – April 2004 to March 2005

Resident of	Number of Tickets Paid	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Tickets Paid	Percent of Total Value
Alberta	1,089,305	97.5%	$141,471,770	97.0%
British Columbia	9,758	0.9%	1,631,470	1.1%
Saskatchewan	9,062	0.8%	1,433,884	1.0%
All Other	8,661	0.8%	1,374,383	0.9%
Total	1,116,786	100.0%	$145,911,507	100.0%

Violation Tickets Paid – April 2003 to March 2004

Resident of	Number of Tickets Paid	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Tickets Paid	Percent of Total Value
Alberta	1,093,579	97.9%	$125,111,391	97.4%
British Columbia	8,675	0.8%	1,309,270	1.0%
Saskatchewan	7,377	0.7%	1,086,145	0.8%
All Other	7,346	0.6%	1,060,926	0.8%
Total	1,116,977	100.0%	$128,567,732	100.0%

Fine Activity and Violation Ticket Activity Information

(continued)

Uncollectible Fines – April 2004 to March 2005

Resident of	Number of Uncollectible Fines	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Uncollectible Fines	Percent of Total Value
Alberta	32,600	97.4%	$ 4,236,282	92.1%
British Columbia	331	1.0%	164,324	3.6%
Saskatchewan	155	0.5%	55,485	1.2%
All Other	362	1.1%	141,001	3.1%
Total	33,448	100.0%	$ 4,597,092	100.0%

Uncollectible Fines – April 2003 to March 2004

Resident of	Number of Uncollectible Fines	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Uncollectible Fines	Percent of Total Value
Alberta	29,955	81.6%	$ 4,129,477	92.9%
British Columbia	239	0.7%	114,891	2.6%
Saskatchewan	141	0.4%	48,425	1.1%
All Other	6,364	17.3%	149,609	3.4%
Total	36,699	100.0%	$ 4,442,402	100.0%

Outstanding Fines – at March 31, 2005

Resident of	Number of Outstanding Fines	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Outstanding Fines	Percent of Total Value
Alberta	528,931	87.7%	$ 97,313,614	89.1%
British Columbia	38,045	6.3%	5,962,139	5.5%
Saskatchewan	17,139	2.8%	2,777,198	2.5%
All Other	19,422	3.2%	3,135,834	2.9%
Total	603,537	100.0%	$109,188,785	100.0%

Outstanding Fines – at March 31, 2004

Resident of	Number of Outstanding Fines	Percent of Total Number	Dollar Value of Outstanding Fines	Percent of Total Value
Alberta	514,089	89.6%	$ 89,947,798	90.8%
British Columbia	30,373	5.3%	4,581,119	4.6%
Saskatchewan	13,172	2.3%	2,022,266	2.0%
All Other	15,983	2.8%	2,560,913	2.6%
Total	573,617	100.0%	$ 99,112,096	100.0%

Fine Collection Cost Estimates

Costing methodologies have been developed to estimate the cost of collecting a provincial statute fine and the cost of collecting a federal statute (*Criminal Code* and other) fine. The estimated cost of collecting a provincial statute fine is related to the number of violation tickets received by all Provincial Court offices in Alberta. The estimated cost of collecting a federal statute fine is related to the approximate number of Fine Orders in all Provincial Court offices. The estimated costs are those incurred by Alberta Justice in Court Services, Criminal Justice and Strategic Services programs.

There were 1.274 million violation tickets received by all Provincial Court offices in 2004-05 and 1.297 million in 2003-04. The major cost components for Court Services are the Calgary and Edmonton Provincial Traffic Courts, ticket processing costs in the Regional Provincial Courts and the cost of violation ticket printing and direct general and regional overhead expenditures. Criminal Justice costs include paralegal prosecutors and support staff and first appearance centres in Calgary and Edmonton. Strategic Services costs are for the operation and maintenance of the Justice Online Information Network (JOIN) system applicable to violation tickets and for postage and handling of the Notice of Conviction mail-outs.

The table below summarizes the provincial statute and municipal bylaw fine payments received and the cost for violation tickets received by all provincial courts.

Total Provincial Statute and Municipal Bylaw Payments Received

		2004/05	2003/04
Provincial Acts - Fine and Surcharge		$129,496,709	$114,456,367
Municipal Bylaw		7,822,174	6,744,552
Late Payment Penalty		11,429,575	10,391,305
Total Violation Ticket Payments	A	$148,748,458	$131,592,224
Cost for Violation Tickets Received by All Courts			
Total Estimated Cost	B	$ 20,366,173	$ 18,852,114
Cost per Dollar Collected (B/A)		$ 0.14	$ 0.14

There were 27,576 Fine Orders in all Provincial Court offices in 2004-05 and an estimated 50,108 in 2003-04. The methodology used to determine the number of Fine Orders issued has been refined for 2004-05. The major cost components for Court Services are the salary and benefit costs of court staff and Provincial Court judges with associated supplies and services costs. Criminal Justice costs are primarily the salary and benefit costs of the Crown prosecutors. Strategic Services costs are for the operation and maintenance of the JOIN system applicable to criminal case tracking. Strategic Services also pays for the salary and other operating costs for the Fines Enforcement Unit who collect *Criminal Code* fines on behalf of all courts in the province.

The table below summarizes the federal statute fine payments received and the cost for all Fine Orders prepared by all Provincial Court offices.

Total Federal Statute Payments Received

		2004/05	2003/04
Federal Acts - Fine and Surcharge	A	$9,448,939	$8,580,317
Cost for Fine Orders by All Courts			
Court Services and Criminal Justice		$13,346,188	$18,523,635
Strategic Services		661,859	959,547
Total Estimated Cost	B	$14,008,047	$19,483,182
Cost per Dollar Collected (B/A)		$ 1.48	$ 2.28

AUDITOR GENERAL
Alberta

Auditor's Report

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General

I have audited the balance sheet of the Office of the Public Trustee, Estates and Trusts as at March 31, 2005, and the statements of changes in net assets, operations – client guaranteed accounts, and operations – other for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of the Office of the Public Trustee. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets held in trust by the Office of the Public Trustee, Estates and Trusts as at March 31, 2005, and the changes to net assets and the results of operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Fred J. Dunn FCA
Auditor General

Edmonton, Alberta
May 20, 2005

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE
Estates and Trusts

($000)

	March 31 2005	March 31 2004 (Note 2)
TRUST FUNDS UNDER ADMINISTRATION		
Bank Accounts (Note 6)	$8,599	$5,121
Client Guaranteed Accounts Investments (Notes 2, 7)	359,010	356,040
Accrued Investment Income	7,061	7,506
Other Investments (Notes 2, 8)	47,703	48,582
	422,373	417,249
CLIENT ASSETS		
Securities and Investments (Note 9)	44,317	37,224
Real Estate Holdings	18,554	19,297
Personal Property and Other Assets	5,417	5,356
Accounts Receivable	5,072	5,162
	73,358	67,039
TOTAL ASSETS	$495,731	$484,288
CLIENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts, Mortgages and Notes Payable	$7,342	$7,048
Payable to Related Parties (Note 11)	7,453	2,397
	14,795	9,445
NET ASSETS HELD IN TRUST	480,936	474,843
	$495,731	$484,288

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE

Estates and Trusts

For the year ended March 31, 2005

($000)

	March 31 2005	March 31 2004
SOURCE OF ASSETS		
Pensions, Benefits and Settlements Received	$65,075	$66,511
Client Assets Acquired During the Year	28,246	21,763
Income Earned on Fund Investments (Note 10)	23,363	24,211
Other Client Funds Received	5,371	5,723
Income from Client Investments	1,480	1,930
TOTAL ASSETS ACQUIRED	123,535	120,138
DISPOSITION OF ASSETS		
Distributions to Beneficiaries	47,229	46,286
Payments for Care and Maintenance of Clients	41,593	39,776
Assets Released to Clients	14,880	14,917
Taxes Paid on Behalf of Clients	3,147	4,221
Administration Fees to the Public Trustee (Note 3h and 11)	9,361	4,741
Common Fund Management Fee (Note 11)	618	612
Goods and Services Taxes Paid	356	556
Fund Operating Expenses	250	227
Assurance Payments to, or on Behalf of Clients (Note 5)	9	56
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS OF ASSETS	117,443	111,391
INCREASE IN ASSETS	6,093	8,747
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	474,843	466,096
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	$480,936	$474,843

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE

Estates and Trusts

For the year ended March 31, 2005

($000)

	March 31 2005	March 31 2004 (Note 2)
REVENUE (Note 10)		
Revenue from investments	$20,717	$21,244
Interest from deposits	194	299
	20,910	21,543
EXPENSES		
CDIC insurance	22	22
Bank charges	40	26
Investment custody fees	78	64
General expenses	94	103
Management fees (Note 11)	618	612
Goods and Services taxes on management fees	43	43
	895	870
NET INCOME AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION	20,015	20,673
DISTRIBUTED TO BENEFICIARIES DURING THE YEAR	20,421	23,696
OVER DISTRIBUTION FOR THE YEAR	(405)	(3,023)
TRANSFER FROM OTHER INVESTMENTS (Note 5)	405	3,023
NET CHANGE	$ -	$ -

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE

Estates and Trusts

For the year ended March 31, 2005

($000)

	March 31 2005	March 31 2004 (Note 2)
REVENUE (Note 10)		
Revenue from investments	$2,382	$2,618
Interest from deposits	71	50
	2,453	2,668
EXPENSES		
Custody and other fees	16	12
Assurance payments to, or on behalf of clients (Note 5)	9	56
	26	68
NET INCOME	2,427	2,600
TRANSFER TO CLIENT GUARANTEED ACCTS (Note 5)	(405)	(3,023)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN OTHER	2,022	(423)
BEGINNING BALANCE	48,702	49,125
ENDING BALANCE (Note 2)	$50,724	$48,702

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE

Accounts and Trusts

March 31, 2005

(in thousands)

Note 1

The Public Trustee operates under the authority of the *Public Trustee Act*, Chapter P-44.1, SA 2004.

The Public Trustee provides access to social programs administered by Alberta Justice by protecting the financial interests of vulnerable Albertans through the administration of the accounts of dependent adults, decedents and minors.

Note 2

Prior to the introduction of the new *Public Trustee Act* on January 1, 2005 two separate funds, the Common Investment Fund and the Special Reserve Fund, operated under the authority of the *Public Trustee Act*. Under the new Act, section 31(1), the two funds were combined into a single fund called the Common Fund. Under section 33(2), if at the time that this Act comes into force, a client is entitled to a share or interest in the Common Fund established under the former Act, the value of the client's interest or share will be credited to a guaranteed account operated within the Common Fund. Under section 33(3) any client money credited to the Common Fund will be credited to the client's guaranteed account. The new Act stipulates in section 33(6) that the amount outstanding on a client's guaranteed account is a charge against the assets of the Common Fund and is unconditionally guaranteed by the Crown. While the former Special Reserve Fund is now part of the Common Investment Fund, it is not part of the client guaranteed accounts and is disclosed as other. Amounts that are not part of the client guaranteed accounts are available under section 35(1) to reimburse clients who suffer a loss as a result of an omission of the Public Trustee (Note 5). The classification of assets between client guaranteed and other is as follows:

	Client Guaranteed	Other	Total
Bank Accounts	$ 5,878	$ 2,721	$ 8,599
Investments	359,010	47,703	406,713
Accrued Interest	6,356	705	7,061
Plus: Outstanding transfer from other investments	405	(405)	0
Total	$ 371,649	$ 50,724	$ 422,373

Note 3

These financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. Because the precise determination of many assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses is dependent on future events, the preparation of financial statements for a period necessarily includes the use of estimates and approximations, which have been made using careful judgement. In particular, the fair value of many assets is estimated at the time the Office of the Public Trustee assumes the responsibility for the asset. Actual results could differ from those estimates. In management's opinion, these financial statements have been properly prepared within reasonable limits of materiality and within the framework of the accounting principles summarized below.

The Minister of Justice is accountable for the Office of the Public Trustee as a part of the Ministry of Justice. These statements reflect the trust assets and related income and expenses, including administration fees charged by the Office of the Public Trustee to administer the trusts. The entire cost of operating the Office of the Public Trustee is paid by the Ministry of Justice and can be found in the financial statements of the Ministry.

Client Guaranteed Accounts and Other investments consist primarily of bonds and are recorded at cost. Investment income is accrued as earned. Purchase price premiums or discounts are amortized on a straight-line basis over the remaining term of the bond.

Securities and investments, held for individuals outside Client Guaranteed Accounts and Other Investments, consist primarily of bonds, annuities, shares, RRSPs, term deposits, guaranteed investment certificates and other investments. Annuities are recorded at the present value of their guaranteed term. If there is not a guaranteed term, the annuity is recorded at a nominal value of $1 for accountability purposes. The other investments are recorded at their market value at the time the Office of the Public Trustee assumes responsibility for the investment.

Where a market value for an investment is not readily available, the investment is recorded at a nominal value of $1 for accountability purposes. The carrying value of the investment is adjusted to market value if one subsequently becomes available.

Note 3 (continued)

Real estate holdings are recorded at market value at the time the Office of the Public Trustee assumes responsibility for the property.

Where a market value for property is not readily available, for example foreign property, the property is recorded at a nominal value of $1 for accountability purposes. The carrying value of the property will be adjusted to fair market value if one subsequently becomes available.

Personal property and other assets are recorded at their value at the time the Office of the Public Trustee assumes responsibility for the assets.

Where no valuation is available, the asset is recorded at a nominal value of $1 for accountability purposes. The carrying value of the asset will be adjusted to fair market value if one subsequently becomes available.

Accounts receivable include pension and other benefits, life insurance policies, mortgages, leases and other miscellaneous receivables.

Pension plans with a guaranteed minimum payment are recorded at net present value. Plans where there is no residual value are recorded at a nominal value of $1 for accountability purposes.

Life insurance policies that carry a cash surrender value are stated at cash surrender value. Policies that do not carry a cash surrender value are recorded at a nominal value of $1 for accountability purposes.

All other receivables are recorded at their face value.

Pursuant to section 32(3) of the *Public Trustee Act,* the Public Trustee may transfer an amount from the Common Fund to pay any expense incurred in the operation of the Common Fund, other than salaries or benefits of persons appointed as employees in the office of the Public Trustee under the *Public Trustee Act* section 2(2). Further, under section 32(5), the amount that is transferred will not be charged to a client or deducted from the client's guaranteed account. Such expenses would include bank charges, management fees, investment and custody fees, which are charged to the income on the Common Fund available for distribution.

Note3 (continued)

A change in accounting policy was made during the year for the recording of fees charged and collected on official guardian accounts. Prior to the 2004-2005 fiscal year, fees were calculated and collected at the end of the administration of the account. As of January 1, 2005 administration fees on all new official guardian accounts will be calculated and collected in the month of the annual anniversary of the file opening. Fees are accrued for the period from the anniversary date to the balance sheet date. For accounts opened prior to January 1, 2005 a one-time calculation of official guardian fees was completed to December 31, 2004 and recorded as a liability. Due to limitations by the system, the impact of the change in accounting policy on the prior years' net assets cannot be reasonably estimated. Therefore the entire adjustment has been recorded in the current year. These fees will be collected from the client at the end of the Public Trustee's administration.

Administration fees for dependent adult accounts are charged and collected annually on the trust's anniversary date. Fees are accrued for the period from the anniversary date to the balance sheet date. Administration fees on decedent accounts are not charged until the trust or account is distributed. Due to the uncertainty with respect to the ultimate amount that will be charged and the short-term nature of the administration, no provision is made for these fees until the amount becomes known.

In addition to the above stated administration fees the Public Trustee may, in accordance with section 40(1)(a) of the *Public Trustee Act*, charge the client any fee that the Public Trustee deems is reasonable for any service, including legal services, that the Public Trustee provides to the client or for a task or function performed by the Public Trustee for the benefit of the client. Under section 40(1)(b), the Public Trustee is entitled to collect from the client any expense reasonably incurred on the client's behalf. Expenses may include legal fees, appraisals and storage expenses.

Accounts, mortgages and loans payable represent encumbrances of client assets that are payable to independent third parties. These client obligations are settled as client resources become available. In some cases, a client's liabilities exceed the stated value of his/her assets. These items are included as accounts payable and are paid as the resources of the client become available.

Note 4

The Office of the Public Trustee, as part of its operations, holds a number of financial instruments in trust. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the accounts and trusts are not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments. The fair values of these financial instruments approximate their carrying values unless otherwise noted.

Note 5

Section 34 of the *Public Trustee Act* states that the Public Trustee, in accordance with regulations, sets the interest rate to be credited to client guaranteed accounts. The interest credited to clients' accounts is the income earned on the Common Fund less operating costs. In the event where the income earned on the Common Fund is less than the interest owing to clients after costs, as per the regulated interest rate, a transfer is done to client guaranteed accounts from the other accounts to make up the difference.

The former Act also allowed for the transfer of funds from the Special Reserve to the Common Investment Fund, to compensate individual clients for any loss caused by an error or omission on the part of the Public Trustee. The new Act covers reimbursement to clients who suffer a loss as a result of an omission of the Public Trustee if the Public Trustee certifies that it is just and equitable to make the payment under section 35(1). Under section 35(2) the amount of the claim may not exceed the amount by which the value of the assets of the Common Fund, as determined in accordance with the regulations, exceeds the total amount outstanding on guaranteed accounts immediately before the payment. These funds are referred to as assurance payments and are reported on the Statement of Operations - Other.

Note 6

Bank accounts include deposits in the Consolidated Cash Investment Trust Fund (CCITF) of the Province of Alberta. Alberta Finance manages CCITF with the objective of providing competitive interest income to depositors while maintaining maximum security and liquidity of depositors' capital. The portfolio is comprised of high quality short-term and mid-term fixed income securities with a maximum term to maturity of three years. Interest is earned on the daily cash balance at the average rate of CCITF's earnings, which varies depending on prevailing market interest rates. Due to the short-term nature of these deposits, the carrying value approximates fair value.

Note 7

Client guaranteed accounts investments consist of fixed term securities. These investments have the following rates and maturity dates:

	2005	2004
Government of Canada		
0 to 5 years, bearing interest at 3.55% to 10.75% (2004 - 6% to 10.5%)	$ 14,290	$ 21,022
5 to 10 years, bearing interest at 4.2% to 5.75% (2004 - 4.2% to 10.75%)	26,843	10,232
	41,133	31,254
Province of Alberta		
0 to 5 years, bearing interest at 7.5% (2004 - 7.5%)	3,503	3,507
5 to 10 years, bearing interest at 4.5% to 5.85% (2004 - 4.5% to 5.85%)	15,815	12,594
	19,318	16,101
Other Provinces		
0 to 5 years, bearing interest at 5.25%to 8.25% (2004 - 5.25% to 9.4%)	119,420	123,413
5 to 10 years, bearing interest at 4.75% to 7.5% (2004 - 4.75% to 7.5%)	108,923	131,891
Over 10 years, bearing interest at 5.5 - 6.75%	15,574	0
	243,917	255,304
Municipal		
5 to 10 years, bearing interest at 5.85% to 6.25% (2004 - 5.85% to 6.25%)	6,138	6,161
Corporations		
0 to 5 years, bearing interest at 6.15% to 6.5% (2004 - 5.96% to 6.5%)	2,956	23,705
5 to 10 years, bearing interest at 3.96% to 6.9% (2004 - 3.96% to 6.9%)	38,612	18,515
Over 10 years, bearing interest at 6.3%	1,936	0
	43,504	42,220
ATB Financial		
0 to 5 years, bearing interest at 5% (2004- 5%)	5,000	5,000
Total	$ 359,010	$ 356,040
Market Value	$ 385,303	$ 388,694

Note 8

Other Investments (2004 Special Reserve Fund Investments) consist of fixed term securities. These investments have the following interest terms and maturity dates:

	2005	2004
Government of Canada		
0 to 5 years, bearing interest at 3.7% to 10.5% (2004 - 3.75% to 10.5%)	$ 7,329	$ 13,564
5 to 10 years, bearing interest at 5.10%	5,000	0
	12,329	13,564
Province of Alberta		
0 to 5 years, bearing interest at 6.4% (2004 - 6.4%)	0	1,464
5 to 10 years, bearing interest at 6.4%	3,776	0
	3,776	1,464
Other Provinces		
0 to 5 years, bearing interest at 4.9% to 9% (2004 - 4.9% to 9%)	24,448	25,925
5 to 10 years, bearing interest at 4.75% to 5.25% (2004 - 4.75% to 5.25%)	6,619	7,096
	31,067	33,021
Municipal		
5 to 10 years (2004 - 5.75%)	0	533
Corporations		
0 to 5 years, bearing interest at 4.69%	531	0
Total	$ 47,703	$ 48,582
Market Value	$ 49,783	$ 51,216

Note 9

Client securities and investments consist of:

	2005	2004
Term and RRSP Deposits	$ 6,892	$ 5,140
Government of Canada Bonds	1,346	970
Provincial Issues	105	5
Shares and Other Securities	35,974	31,109
Total	$ 44,317	$ 37,224

Due to the numerous unique client investments, it is not practical to determine market value or disclose rates of return on these investments.

Note 10

Investment income has been allocated between the client guaranteed accounts and other investments as follows:

	2005	2004
Client Guaranteed Accounts	$ 20,910	$ 21,543
Other Investments	2,453	2,668
Total	$ 23,363	$ 24,211

Note 11

At the end of the year, the amounts due to related parties are as follows:

	2005	2004
Minister of Finance Loan	$ 224	$ 224
Alberta Justice Fees	7,229	2,173
Total	$ 7,453	$ 2,397

The total for Alberta Justice fees includes a one-time catch-up recording of official guardian fee liabilities. See Note 3(h).

The following table summarizes the related party transactions with Alberta Justice for the year:

	2005	2004
Administration Fees	$ 9,361	$ 4,741
Common Fund Management Fees	618	612
Total	$ 9,979	$ 5,353

The administration fees include a one-time fee accrual for official guardian accounts. See note 3(h).

Note 12

Section 28(11) of the *Public Trustee Act* provides that payment of claims against the Public Trustee for irrecoverable loss or damages as a result of an act or omission of the Public Trustee in the performance of his duties may be made from Other Investments.

Claims against the Public Trustee, which had not been resolved as at March 31, 2005 amounted to $13,038 (2004 - $12,919) excluding interest. No provision has been made for these unresolved claims, as the ultimate outcome cannot be predicted.

Note 13

A statement of cash flows has not been included in these financial statements as the cash flow information is readily apparent from the other statements included.

Note 14

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

Note 15

The Deputy Minister of Justice and Attorney General and the Public Trustee approved these financial statements.

ENTITIES INCLUDED IN THE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT REPORTING ENTITY

Ministry, Department, Fund or Agency	Ministry Annual Report
Agriculture Financial Services Corporation[1]	
Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission	
Alberta Capital Finance Authority	
Alberta Energy and Utilities Board	
Alberta Foundation for the Arts	
Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission	
Alberta Government Telephones Commission	
Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research Endowment Fund	
Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund	
Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund	
Alberta Heritage Science and Engineering Research Endowment Fund	
Alberta Historical Resources Foundation	
Alberta Insurance Council	
Alberta Pensions Administration Corporation	
Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission	
Alberta Research Council Inc.	
Alberta Risk Management Fund	
Alberta School Foundation Fund	
Alberta Science and Research Authority	
Alberta Securities Commission	
Alberta Social Housing Corporation	
Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation	
Alberta Treasury Branches	
ATB Investment Services Inc.	
Child and Family Services Authorities:	
Calgary and Area and Family Services Authority	
Central Alberta Family Services Authority	
East Central Alberta Family Services Authority	
Edmonton and Area Family Services Authority	
North Central Alberta Family Services Authority	
Northeast Alberta Family Services Authority	
Northwest Alberta Family Services Authority	
Southeast Alberta Family Services Authority	
Southwest Alberta Family Services Authority	
Metis Settlements Family Services Authority	

[1]The Crop Reinsurance Fund of Alberta was merged into the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation, effective April 1, 2003.

ENTITIES INCLUDED IN THE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT REPORTING ENTITY

Ministry, Department, Fund or Agency — Ministry Annual Report

Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation

Crop Reinsurance Fund of Alberta[1]

Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

Department of Children's Services

Department of Community Development

Department of Education

Department of Energy

Department of Finance

Department of Gaming

Department of Health and Wellness

Department of Innovation and Science

Department of Seniors and Community Supports

Department of Solicitor General

Department of Sustainable Resource Development

Environmental Protection and Enhancement Fund

Gainers Inc.

Government House Foundation

Historic Resources Fund

Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Education Fund

iCORE Inc.

Lottery Fund

Ministry of Advanced Education[2]

Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development[2]

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

Ministry of Children's Services

Ministry of Community Development

Ministry of Economic Development[2]

Ministry of Education

Ministry of Energy

Ministry of Environment[2]

[1]The Crop Reinsurance Fund of Alberta was merged into the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation, effective April 1, 2003.

[2]Ministry includes only the departments so separate department financial statements are not necessary.

ENTITIES INCLUDED IN THE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT REPORTING ENTITY

Ministry, Department, Fund or Agency	Ministry Annual Report
Ministry of Finance	
Ministry of Executive Council[2]	
Ministry of Gaming	
Ministry of Government Services[2]	
Ministry of Health and Wellness	
Ministry of Human Resources and Employment [2]	
Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation[2]	
Ministry of Innovation and Science	
Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations[2]	
Ministry of Justice[2]	
Ministry of Municipal Affairs[2]	
Ministry of Restructuring and Government Efficiency[2]	
Ministry of Seniors and Community Supports	
Ministry of Solicitor General and Public Security	
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Development	
N.A. Properties (1994) Ltd.	
Natural Resources Conservation Board	
Persons with Developmental Disabilities Community Boards:	
Calgary Region Community Board	
Central Region Community Board	
Edmonton Region Community Board	
Northeast Region Community Board	
Northwest Region Community Board	
South Region Community Board	
Persons with Developmental Disabilities Provincial Board	
Provincial Judges and Masters in Chambers Reserve Fund	
Supplementary Retirement Plan Reserve Fund	
Victims of Crime Fund	
Wild Rose Foundation	

[2]Ministry includes only the departments so separate department financial statements are not necessary.

ENTITIES NOT INCLUDED IN THE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT REPORTING ENTITY

Fund or Agency	Ministry Annual Report
Alberta Cancer Board	
Alberta Foundation for Health Research	
Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research	
Alberta Heritage Foundation for Science and Engineering Research	
Alberta Mental Health Board	
Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund Board	
Improvement Districts' Trust Account	
Local Authorities Pension Plan	
Long-Term Disability Income Continuance Plan - Bargaining Unit	
Long-Term Disability Income Continuance Plan - *Management, Opted Out and Excluded*	
Management Employees Pension Plan	
Provincial Judges and Masters in Chambers Pension Plan	
Provincial Judges and Masters in Chambers (Unregistered) Pension Plan	
Public Post Secondary Institutions	
Public Service Management (Closed Membership) Pension Plan	
Public Service Pension Plan	
Regional Health Authorities	
School Boards	
Special Areas Trust Account	
Special Forces Pension Plan	
Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers	
Workers' Compensation Board	